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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'China pivot will benefit CNMI in the future'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although a rather controversial take on the future of the CNMI, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stands firm on his decision to pivot the CNMI away from its dependence on visitor arrivals from China and to focus on military tourism stating that this will benefit the CNMI in the long run.

Yesterday, as part of the CNMI's recurring engagement with the U.S Department of Defense, Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M.

See PIVOT on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Yesterday, as part of the CNMI's recurring engagement with the U.S Department of Defense, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, along with other CNMI dignitaries, met with senior military leaders who provided top level overview of military projects and activities that are planned or are taking place throughout the CNMI.

RACQUEL FLOYD

The Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe was a beehive of activity the last couple of days leading up to yesterday's last day of filing for candidacy for the Nov. 5 general elections.

59 candidates to vie in Nov. 5 general elections

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's official. A total of 59 candidates will vie for positions in U.S. Congress, CNMI Senate and House of Representatives, municipal councils on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and the CNMI Board

See ELECTIONS on Page 4

DFEMS deploys 29 to help fight California wildfires

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As one of the largest wildfires in California history has continued to rage since July 27, a total of 29 CNMI civilians and firefighters under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services have teamed

See DFEMS on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Juan Pua pose for a photo with CNMI civilians and firefighters and their families as they are set to leave to help fight wildfires in California yesterday at the Susupe fire station.

House panel calls for public hearing on proposed amendments to Mañagaha use rules

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI House Standing Committee on Natural Resources has called for a public hearing to hear the concerns of marine operators who are in opposition of the Department of Public Lands' proposed amendments to the current rules and regulations governing the use of Mañagaha Island.

Over a week ago, DPL sent out a notice proposing to amend the current rules and regulations governing the use of Mañagaha.

Essentially, the proposed amendments give master concessionaire Marianas Global Inc. more control of the island and limits who can conduct commercial activity on Mañagaha.

Camacho

Since the proposed amendments were released, local marine operators have made known their disagreement with the proposed amendments and have even met with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang seeking help.

House Standing Committee on Natural Resources chair

See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Dae Jang Kum Restaurant is under new management and to entice new customers, the Susupe establishment launched its own lunch buffet last month.
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NATION
Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will spend their first full day as running mates on Wednesday rallying Democrats across the Midwest.
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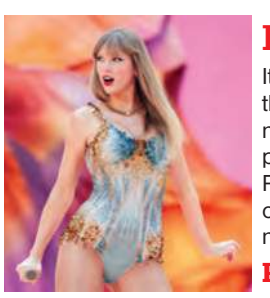

LIFE & STYLE
It's Taylor Swift's world, and the MTV Video Music Award nominations are the latest proof and "The Tortured Poets Department" singer once again tops the VMA noms with 10.
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Local

8 MILA resolutions presented to Chamber members

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero presented eight resolutions passed by the 2nd General Assembly of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association during their general membership meeting yesterday at the Charley's Room of Pacific Island Club Saipan.

One resolution—Resolution No. 01-GA-2—is of particular interest to the CNMI, given its challenges of attracting new airlines and high airline fares.

Resolution No. 01-GA-2 calls for a cabotage exemption for foreign carriers landing in Guam and the CNMI. Guerrero mentioned in his presentation that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Delegate James C. Moylan (R-GU) recently submitted a similar resolution to U.S. Congress.

A special cabotage exemption for foreign carriers seeking to fly from Guam to another U.S. port would allow for competition for certain routes, which in turn should lead to more competitive pricing which ultimately benefits the consumers.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero discusses the eight resolutions passed by the 2nd General Assembly of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association during the Chamber's general membership meeting yesterday at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Resolution No. 02-GA-2, meanwhile, eyes the creation of the MILA Cybersecurity Working Group, while Resolution No. 03-GA-2 wants to eliminate the general Medicaid funding limitations for territories of the U.S.

Also discussed were Resolution No. 04-GA-2 and Resolution No. 05-GA-2. The former calls for the redistribution of unused territorial cap amounts under the Medicaid program, while the latter seeks the establishment of the Marianas Worker Visa and Marianas Regional Commission, where Guerrero mentioned that the CNMI Transitional Worker program will end in 2029.

He added that Guam lacks the population and workforce to support its economic growth as the island seeks economic tools from U.S. Congress to boost its industries.

Guerrero said reports also indicate that Guam needs external support to overcome its workforce challenges.

Same is true when it comes to the CNMI.

"Reports from the [Government Accountability Office] state that we do not have the population base and the workforce to allow us to grow for the foreseeable future," Guerrero said.

RACQUEL FLOYD

House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), who attended the 2nd General Assembly of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association, served as the special guest of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Guerrero highlighted the proposal to establish a regional commission for Guam and the CNMI, as it would ultimately address workforce, education, and healthcare issues. He said this body will be co-chaired by the governors of Guam and CNMI and would have direct access to the White House and Congress and would be able to pursue challenges that outlast a single administration.

Guerrero added that the governor has a four-year term and changes in administration can affect long-range initiatives and cited Medicaid and Social Security Act as examples of long-term initiatives.

Meanwhile, Resolution No. 06-GA-2 calls for improved regional disaster response capabilities for Guam and the CNMI, while Resolution No. 07-GA-2 wants the creation of Educational Exchange Programs to promote a skilled workforce.

Lastly, Resolution No. 08-GA-2 wants the federal government to support local regenerative food production in the Marianas.

See CHAMBER on Page 3

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DPS eyes park and beach surveillance

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas speaks to the media during a press conference last Monday at DPS Central.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the recent homicide case involving the Cabrera brothers, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas shared to the media that surveillance in parks and beaches, especially in the tourist district was something the department was seeking to do.

"Right now, I'm in talks with the Marianas Visitors Bureau about setting up cameras that were recently donated by Docomo Pacific," said Macaranas during a press conference last Monday. "We're gonna set that thing up so that we can add more security to our people. Not only for the tourists, but also for our people."

Macaranas said the plan was to install these cameras first in the more isolated tourist spots, and then toward more community places.

"Well, these cameras are mostly [to be] concentrated within Garapan, where the tourist district is at. But in the future, I'll extend it more north to tourist areas like Marpi, diving spots like Lau Lau, the areas that people may not usually be present. We'll put those cameras there, not only Lau Lau but also Ladder Beach, Obyan Beach so we can add a little bit of security to the people there."

When asked about updates on current investigations from this year, Macaranas shared that the newer set of bones found among three sets of skeletal remains in a Banzai Cliff cave at Marpi has been determined by resident anthropologists as an Asian male.

"They are still sifting through the area where the bones were found because they need more bones in order for anthropologist to figure out the age. Because we know already that it's an Asian male, but as far as the age we need more bones for anthropologists to figure out the age of the human remains."

He shared that what they know right now is based off of the bones that they have already, but they do need more to not only determine the age but possibly the cause of death.

As for the homicide case that claimed the lives of a couple from Finasisu last January, Macaranas said that they are still awaiting the results from the lab in the U.S. mainland.

"We're still waiting for the results of the evidence that we sent out for examination by forensics. So as soon as we get those results back, we will go from there. I want to let the people know that the processing of evidence, not just this, any kind of evidence, it would take months, probably to a year, depending on how extensive the examination will go to. And that's one of the reasons why there's a long timeline waiting for that to go through."

He shared that in the meantime, the investigation still continues in order to build up evidence for when results do return from the lab in the U.S. mainland.

CHAMBER

From page 2

Meanwhile, House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) talked about what transpired during the MILA confab and said that they had discussed economic challenges. He added that the meeting aimed to foster collaboration and address concerns raised by the private sector.

Propst discussed how travel expenses posed barriers for individuals and businesses, and emphasized the need for improved transportation solutions that will include exploring options of cabotage and resurrecting essential air service.

Propst also mentioned that the Guam Legislature will visit the CNMI Legislature for more discussions. He added that the eight resolutions were developed through collective efforts with the involvement of various stakeholders, including legislators, governors, and government representatives.

The representative ended his discussion by mentioning the importance of Unified Voice for Guam's Economy as it was crucial for Guam's strength and regional success. He said the entity recognized the need for a strong economy to support various sectors, including tourism. He added the military has consistently played a vital role in sustaining Guam's economy, especially during challenging times like COVID-19.

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman — HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Vice Chairman — DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Member
CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1. July 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting
2. July 25, 2024 – Special Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
b. Office Lease Agreement – Binadu Realty

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
a. ED Recommendation No. 2024-09

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] *Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.*
[2] *Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9972, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400119

SUBMISSION DATE: August 27, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Paupau Beach Playground, Saipan."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 25, 2024** at Technical Services Divi-sion, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Paupau Beach Project Site, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST local time on August 20, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JULY 16, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL **(RFP-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: July 16, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special Personnel Affairs Committee meeting is being called on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ADOPTION OF AGENDA

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM:
1. Comptroller Contract

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.
Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

STEVE K. MESNGON
Chairman, Personnel Affairs Committee

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRSFRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 12, 2024, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

July 12, 2024
Date

Early voting begins for Rota special election

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The early voting period for Rota's special election to fill the island's recently vacated spot on the Board of Education has officially begun and will end next week.

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Election Commission officially opened early voting for Rota's special election to fill the island's vacant seat on the board of education.

The early voting period will last until Aug. 13, followed by the special election on Aug. 14.

"This is to inform all Precinct 7 voters that pursuant to 1 CMC §6222 and §6224, the 2024 Special Election Early Voting period for the 1st Senatorial District of Rota, will commence on Wednesday, Aug. 7, and end on Tuesday Aug. 13," said the CEC.

The election district's early voting place will be at the Rota-DPS Command Building in Songsong Village.

The polling place will open at 8:30am and close at 4pm each day, including weekends and holidays.

In addition, pursuant to 1 CMC § 6105 ©, the CEC announces the designated polling places for the upcoming Aug. 14, special Eection will be at the Rota-NMC Room B-1 (main entrance).

The polling place for the special election will open at 7am and close at 7pm.

"As mandated by 1 CMC §6218, voters must ensure that they bring with them a pictured ID as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls. For more information, please contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 235-8683(VOTE)," said CEC.

DFEMS

From page 1

up to aid their fellow frontliners.

Just before their deployment, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and DFEMS Commissioner Juan Pua met with these brave individuals and their families yesterday at the Susupe fire station to wish them Godspeed as they are set to deploy.

"Their safety is of paramount concern," Palacios said to the media, shortly after the meeting. "That is the key element to this assignment. We don't want to send them and something happens. It's always a concern, but we're doing our part to help the state of California in this crisis. As they also send people when we need their help, it's our turn to reciprocate, but at the same time we need to make sure, always make sure that our men who are going are safe. They're not going to a very safe place. It's a challenge, as they're going to be fighting wildfires in the forests of California. We just need to continue to encourage them and inspire them."

He also shared confidence in the team bound for the West Coast.

"Even in the past, every time we send our men, they were always given really high recognition for their skills and their hard work. You know, also, secondarily, it upscales the level of professionalism in firefighting skills."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ELECTIONS

From page 1

of Education for the 2024 general elections, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

This, as the filing of candidacy for the 2024 CNMI general elections this coming Nov. 5 ended yesterday.

For the U.S. delegate race, five will be contesting the seat that will be vacated by Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (D-MP)—Republican Party of the CNMI's Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the CNMI Democratic Party and House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and independent candidates John Oliver Gonzales, Liana Hoffschneider, and James Rayphand.

Senate candidates for the 1st Senatorial District (Rota) are led by incumbent Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) with independent Ronnie Calvo also throwing his hat in the political ring.

For the 2nd Senatorial District (Rota), incumbent Sen. Karl King-Nabor (R-Saipan) will be running unopposed, while in the 3rd Senatorial District (Saipan), Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) is seeking reelection with Rep. Manny Castro (D-Saipan) and independent Luis Sablan challenging her.

House of Representatives candidates for Precinct 1 under the independent banner are incumbents Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Raymond Palacios, Edwin Quitugua, Carmen DeLeon Guerrero, Yvette Sablan, and former representative Janet Maratita. Republican Party candidates are incumbent Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan) and Benusto Piteg. Diego Camacho, meanwhile, is running under the local Democratic Party.

There are only two candidates in Precinct 2—incumbent Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and fellow independent candidate Diego Sablan

For Precinct 3, candidates vying under the independent banner are incumbents House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Del Benson and Elias Rangamar. Democratic Party candidates, meanwhile, are incumbents Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan) and Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan).

Precinct 4 candidates under the Republican Party are Rosa Rios and Antonia Kapileo, while incumbents Reps. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan) and Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) as well as Cecilia Taitano are running as independents

There are three candidates for Precinct 5—Melvin Faisao under the Republican Party and incumbents Reps. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (Ind-Saipan) as independents.

The lone candidate for Precinct 6 is incumbent Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian), while another incumbent, Rep. Julie Marie Ogo (Ind-Rota), will battle it out with fellow independent Eusebio Manglona for Precinct 7.

Running for municipal council seats (non-partisan) for Rota are Sandra Masga and Tillie Castro. For Tinian, Estevan Cabrera, Ana Marie San Nicolas, and Joseph Santos are running. For Saipan, Antonia Tudela and Marian Tudela will run for reelection.

Board of Education candidates are Anthony Barcinas for Rota and Martin Ada, Gregory Borja, Aschumar Ogumoro-Uludong, Juan Tenorio, and Maisie Tenorio for Saipan.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim Tenorio, meanwhile, will seek retention to the CNMI Superior Court.

PIVOT

From page 1

Apatang, along with other CNMI dignitaries met with senior military leaders who provided a top-level overview of military projects and activities that are planned or are taking place throughout the CNMI.

In an interview with Palacios after the executive briefing, he touched a little on a policy that has been criticized by members of the public; to pivot away from the CNMI's dependence on China and to look to military tourism to fill the gaps.

Palacios, using Tinian and Guam as an example, said that these islands are thriving despite a decline in tourism, and this can be attributed to the ongoing military activity.

"There are so many benefits. Tinian is thriving. Why is Tinian thriving? What is the industry there? It's because of the DoD activity and we hope to continue this for another 25 or even 50 years," he said. Guam is thriving. However, they too are experiencing decline in tourism from the Asia Pacific area like we are. But if you go down to Tumon, you'll see a lot of people walking around and if you look closely, it's certainly not Koreans or Japanese, it's our servicemembers that are there to help the economy of Guam. That's the missing component in the Commonwealth," he said.

Despite the controversy around his decision, Palacios says in the future, the CNMI will benefit from the pivot.

"I've been taking a lot of heat for [implementing] a pivot and saying 'you know, we need to start paying attention to the DoD' because they are here to do this. We have agreed on this in our Covenant. In about two years, this pivot is going to bear a lot more impact and benefit for the Commonwealth," he said.

Palacios adds that although the CNMI once had a strong relationship with countries like China, times have changed, and he believes the CNMI should look to building relationships with federal partners and DoD.

"The world has changed in the Indo-Pacific. The DoD and our federal government have paid attention, and this pivot is not just my decision, it's been happening since President Obama held office. The world has changed on us too. Pre-pandemic, we can talk about the different relationships with China and other Asian nations, but during COVID, things changed. The relationship has gone south. We need to look at what we have, work with our federal government, and allies. We are part of America and that's a fact we cannot change," he said.

"We can have relationships with anybody but if their relationship is not consistent with our national security and national relationship, it would be worthless. We're going to be chasing something that isn't there. So, we better be consistent with our policies," Palacios added.

The executive briefing, which is held quarterly, was led by Admiral Greg Huffman, Commander, Joint Task Force Micronesia; Admiral Brent DeVore, Commander, Joint Region Marianas; and Brig. Gen. Christopher K. Faurot, Commander, Guam Air National Guard.

Among the items discussed included the military training outlook, updates on the Tinian Divert Airfield, Tinian port development activities, the updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Tinian, contracting opportunities for CNMI businesses, and other topics.

Palacios and Apatang were joined by Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), House and Senate members, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, and other members of the governor's Cabinet.

HOUSE

From page 1

Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), pursuant to the Open Government Act, has called for a public hearing to hear the concerns of the public.

The hearing is set for today at 5:30pm at the House Chamber Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill.

"The general public is strongly urged to participate in the public hearing and to provide written comments either before or during the event. Oral testimonies will be received during the public Hearing. If you have any inquiries about this public hearing, please reach out to the Office of Representative Angelo A. Camacho. You can send your comments via email to staff.rep.camachoa@cnmileg.net," said Camacho in his notice.

Meanwhile, DPL announced last week that it will conduct two public hearings regarding the proposed amendments to the commercial rules and regulations for Managaha.

Both hearings will start at 5:30pm on Aug. 16 and 19 in the DPL conference room at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, marine operators have expressed that should DPL push forward with its amendments, many of them would have to close up shop as they won't be able to conduct business on Mañagaha anymore.

However, DPL's David Sablan says that the current regulations provide that commercial competition on Mañagaha Island will be eliminated and provide that the concessionaire has the exclusive right to operate all commercial concessions, and to conduct all tours of the island and from the island, but does not clearly define the scope of commercial activity and concessions included in this right.

"Revising the regulations will clarify that this exclusive right to conduct or operate any tour or activity on the island or departing from the island includes but is not limited to underwater and surface water activities," he said.

Ultimately, Sablan explains, the intent of this amendment is to further define the type of commercial activity the concessionaire and a limited number of sub-concessionaires may perform.

"Section 145-30-101 of the Commercial Use of Mañagaha Island Rules and Regulations already states that this includes the right to conduct all tours of and from the island, and to operate surface water sports, i.e., parasailing, banana boat ride, pedal boat, power boat lagoon cruises, windsurfing, canoe rentals, canoe tours, kayak tours; and underwater sports, i.e., SCUBA diving, SNUBA diving, snorkeling, BOB, and sea walker-type tours. The proposed amendment will clarify that picking up tourists from the island to conduct these activities is considered commercial activity and prohibited. The proposed amendment further clarifies that whether the commercial activity was a package deal that originated in Saipan to Mañagaha Island, or departs from Mañagaha to Saipan, this type of activity will be restricted," he explained.

Furthermore, DPL said marine sport operators will be restricted from picking up a visitor from Mañagaha Island for the purpose of any intended surface or underwater sport activity, unless the marine sport operator(s) has a valid sub-concessionaire agreement that was mutually agreed upon by DPL and the concessionaire.

"The existing regulations do not give the exclusive concessionaire the exclusive right to provide transportation to the island, and the proposed amendments would not change that. As a result, the proposed regulation would not prohibit local residents from hiring boats or using personal transportation and would not prohibit tour providers from arranging transportation between Saipan and Mañagaha (as long as the transportation does not include a marine sport activity)," said Sablan.

OIA awards $4.5M in Maintenance Assistance Program funds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced $4,537,239 in fiscal year 2024 Maintenance Assistance Program grant funding that will go towards supporting programs and projects benefitting American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"These programs will provide a range of opportunities for maintenance and related renovation projects that will protect against adverse weather, strengthen power utilities, and provide important maintenance-related equipment," said Cantor. "This year we received millions more in funding requests than we could support as this program continues to rise in popularity for the differences it is making in the Insular Areas."

Projects and programs funded through the Maintenance Assistance Program in fiscal year 2024 for the Insular Areas are itemized and briefly described as follows:

American Samoa—$780,212

■ $283,326 to Department of Veterans Affairs for perimeter fencing and surveillance cameras to secure the Veterans Memorial Monument;

■ $280,000 to the Office of Search and Rescue to support maintenance training and emergency support staff training under the Emergency Transportation and Maintenance MAP Program; and

■ $216,886 to the Department of Health, Office of Community Health Centers for Building Resilience: Enclosing the Well Baby Clinic Waiting Area at the Tafuna Community Health Center. Funds will be used to renovate the open-air patient waiting room into a fully enclosed area and provide a safe, comfortable space for patients with protection from adverse weather conditions.

Guam—$861,606

■ $338,021 to the Guam Community College to train up a skilled workforce in building maintenance and repair under the Maintenance Training Bootcamps: Raising the Career Technical Education Ladder for Building Maintenance Project;

■ $250,000 to the Guam Preservation Trust to replace damaged wooden shutters and mamposteria walls as part of the Historic Jose P. Lujan House-Guam Institute Critical Repair Project;

■ $224,462 to WestCare Pacific Islands, Inc. for repairs to the roof, plumbing, electricity and fresh paint at the youth shelter the Jose P. Lujan House as part of the Repair of Sanctuary Facilities Project; and

■ $49,123 to the University of Guam's Global Learning & Engagement Office for the Shutter Project, to renovate building #5 with new doors and storm windows to better protect against adverse weather. The building to be renovated houses the Micronesian Area Research Center and the Office of Information Technology/Computer Center.

CNMI—$824,257

■ $345,295 to the Department of Corrections for the Commercial Kitchen Renovation and Rehabilitation Project to bring the food-service program back in-house with updated equipment and kitchen appliances;

■ $286,771 to the Department of Public Works for a 10-cubic yard dump truck related to road maintenance and transportation of vegetation debris, coral aggregate washout, and garbage collection, as part of the Dump Truck Acquisition For Roadways and Stormwater Maintenance Project; and

■ $192,191 to the Department of Public Works to purchase a backhoe with rock breaker attachment and compactor to assist with military funeral burials and other road projects for the CNMI Veterans Cemetery Equipment Acquisition Project.

U.S. Virgin Islands—$703,000

■ $483,000 to the Bureau of Information Technology for procurement, installation, and integration of advanced battery backup systems within the Government's Territorial Data Centers and Telecom Sites, as part of the Battery Backup System Upgrade for Government Data Centers and Telecom Sites Project; and

■ $220,000 to the VI Water and Power Authority (WAPA) to purchase mulchers for vegetation management and clearing as part of the Purchase of Mulchers Project.

Federated States of Micronesia—$644,386

■ $280,000 to the Yap State Public Service Corp.'s Pacific Lineman Training Program to train 75 professionally certified power linesmen for the public power utilities from the CNMI, Guam and Palau, as well as the utilities from Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia;

■ $276,286 to Pacific Mission Aviation to convert a storage facility into an airplane hangar maintenance bay in Yap for the PMA's MAP to Hope 2024-Yap Project; and

■ $88,100 to the Madolenihmw Municipal Government in Pohnpei to purchase equipment for solid waste removal to prevent health hazards in Madolenihmw municipality under the Solid Waste Collection Program.

Republic of the Marshall Islands—$723,778

■ $312,134 to the Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation to procure essential maintenance tools necessary to maintain intra-atoll transportation services under the MISC Maintenance Equipment Project;

■ $297,109 to the Assumption School on Majuro to renovate a dilapidated 3-classroom building as part of the Assumption School Hacker Hall Classroom Renovation Project; and

■ $114,535 to the Ministry of Cultural and Internal Affairs for renovation and repair of V7AB's broadcasting building as part of the Majuro V7AB Transmission Building Renovation Project.

While the Republic of Palau did not submit any applications for MAP funding this year, OIA has recently announced $1,098,699 million in Technical Assistance Program funding support to Palau for a Household Listing project, a Street Naming and Addressing project, and for Bureau of Reclamation technical assistance to the Palau Public Utility Corporation for water treatment support. Palau also receives TAP funding support for economic advisory services through the Palau Economic Advisory Group.

MAP funding provided through the Office of Insular Affairs is directed toward maintenance-related needs and training in the Insular Areas. Applications for MAP and TAP grant funding may be submitted for consideration each year in October through grants.gov under CFDA 15.875. More information about these competitive, discretionary grants and other funding may be found at www.doi.gov/oia.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(06/05/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
• Special Medical Facility Permit (SMFP)
- Update: A Bill For an Act
- Fee Structure
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
• Total Reviewed = _____ New Application = _____
• Renewal = _____ Pending = _____
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
• Dr. S. Barnett
• Dr. R. Vyas
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

RFP24– RED001
"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP"
(FORMER ROTA RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB)
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David Apatang, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified firms for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public lands:

Lot Number	Lot Size, M2
410 R 03	9,119
410 R 02	12,964
412 R 04	930,755
412 R 15	340,729
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:	**1,293,567**

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of **Five Thousand Dollars (US $5,000.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands.***

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference "**RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP**", and include a certified or cashier's check payable to ***Department of Public Lands*** for the amount of US **$5,000.00** (a non-refundable fee required upon submission of proposal).

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP**". For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the DPL Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building by **4:00p.m. on September 10, 2024 ChST** or mailed to the following address shown below:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:00 pm on August 20, 2024 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the address above. Responses to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/Teresita A. Santos
Secretary

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Everyone wants a better government

Politics aside, Americans are united on some of the basic things their government should do better: Make sure air travel is safe, simplify the process for filing tax returns, streamline applications for student loans.

At the same time, many are frustrated by the blizzard of new federal rules that rain down on them each year, which hit a record 4,429 in 2021.

That looks set to change. A pair of Supreme Court decisions this year will make it easier to challenge both new and old regulations. With their rulemaking powers clipped, perhaps federal workers should be free to focus more on basic execution. That could be a boon for taxpayers and for Americans' trust in government. But Congress needs to help.

It should go without saying that elected leaders need to prioritize effective administration. Yet agencies tend to get more attention for their policy proposals than for the quality of their implementation or customer service — at least until there's some kind of blunder. The leaders of the Federal Reserve and Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., for example, were rarely asked about the attentiveness of their bank supervisors and examiners until several banks collapsed last year and emergency rescue measures were needed.

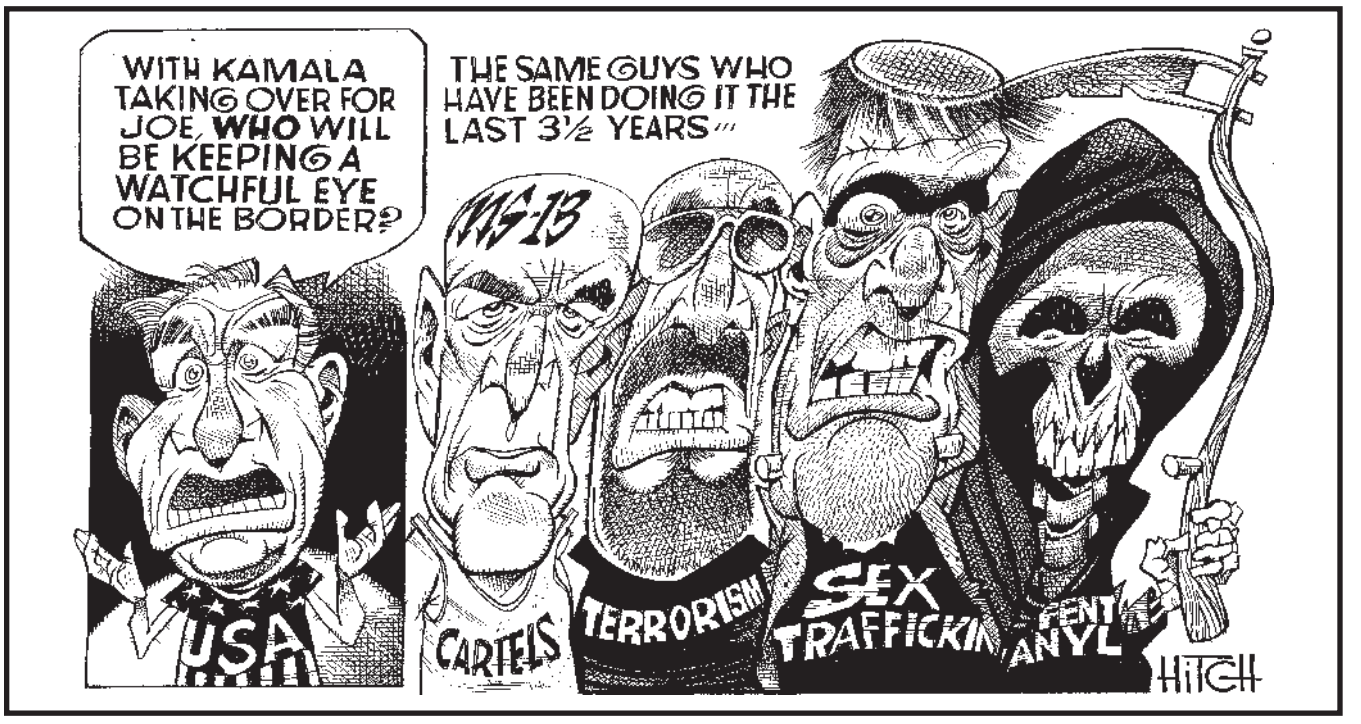
With millions of employees to manage, the federal government is always going to make mistakes. But minimizing them is crucial. Research shows that negative experiences with the bureaucracy corrode Americans' trust in government much more than positive experiences improve it. So addressing basic problems—like the Internal Revenue Service's failure to answer most taxpayer phone calls—can make a real difference in how people view their government.

As a start, Congress needs to ensure that agency leaders have the flexibility to hire competent workers. A recent effort to focus on skills, rather than credentials, in government hiring is on the right track. More programs like the US Digital Service and the 18F office—which act as in-house consultancies for the executive branch and recruit private-sector workers with needed skills for temporary tours in government—should also be under consideration. The goal should be widening the available talent pool and improving the nuts and bolts of governance.

Technology should also be part of the answer. In recent years, the executive branch has been cautiously introducing artificial intelligence systems. Research suggests that, in time, these could have pronounced benefits. One study estimated that aggressive AI investment could free up as much as 30% of federal staffers' time. Freed from drudge work, these workers should be empowered to focus on more creative tasks and problem-solving.

Ultimately, responsibility will fall to Congress to write laws with less ambiguity and clearer directions for regulators. To meet that challenge, more and better legislative staff will be crucial. Restoring the Office of Technology Assessment, a team of experts that provided Congress with technical research from 1972 until it was defunded in the mid-'90s, would help lawmakers understand new challenges and weigh their

See EVERYONE on Page 7


WITH KAMALA TAKING OVER FOR JOE, WHO WILL BE KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE BORDER?
THE SAME GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN DOING IT THE LAST 3½ YEARS"
MS-13
USA
CARTELS
TERRORISM
SEX TRAFFICKIN
FENTANYL
HITCH

Reports of the death of Trump's Project 2025 are greatly exaggerated

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

This summer more and more voters have gotten to know the gist of Project 2025, the policy opus intended to guide a second Trump administration, and they thoroughly dislike it. Which explains the project's purported demise in recent days at the Trump campaign's hands, just as Democrats have jump-started the presidential contest behind Kamala Harris' candidacy.

The ruthlessness with which Donald Trump and his chief campaign lieutenants supposedly severed any ties to the agenda-setting endeavor gave me flashbacks to Trump's presidency, when he'd abruptly announce a policy switch or Cabinet member's firing with a tweet.

Just like that, someone or something that once had Trump's favor was dispatched with the press of two thumbs on a smartphone's buttons.

"I know nothing about Project 2025," Trump wrote in a misnamed "truth" on his social media site last month. "I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them." He reiterated that message several times throughout July, blaming "Radical Left Democrats" for "pure disinformation" about his ties to the effort.

As usual, that was all lies, but when the right-wing coalition behind the blueprint, including scores of former Trump advisors, continued to promote it, Trump's enforcers finally brought out the shiv — a no-holds-barred statement on Tuesday from senior campaign consigliere Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita:

"President Trump's campaign has been very clear for over a year that Project 2025 had nothing to do with the campaign, did not speak for the campaign, and should not be associated with the campaign or the President in any way. Reports of Project 2025's demise would be greatly welcomed and should serve as notice to anyone or any group trying to misrepresent their influence with President Trump and his campaign — it will not end well for you." (Emphasis mine.)

That same day the once-respected, now MAGA-fied Heritage Foundation, the power behind Project 2025, announced that director Paul Dans was out of his job and that the 2-year-old undertaking would throttle back. The Washington Post reported that some contributing authors, who once saw their involvement as a ticket to a job in Trump 2.0, were asking to have their names scratched from the final product. Theirs isn't an idle fear: LaCivita had threatened an employment ban if Project 2025 collaborators continued to equate their work with Trump's agenda.

So that's the end of that? Be skeptical. Be very skeptical.

For one thing, Trump embraced the effort at its start. In a speech at a Heritage conference in 2022, he said it would "detail plans for exactly what our movement will do … when the American people give us a colossal mandate to save America." CNN's review of the contributors found at least 140 former Trump administration officials, including six Cabinet secretaries.

So, sure, Trump can badmouth the Heritage project now that it's become a bogeyman. But should he win, he'll surely make use of Project 2025's policy prescriptions and its database of 20,000 vetted MAGAts to form a government and execute his stated agenda.

Which gets to the second reason Project 2025 should be considered alive and well: Much of it is Trump's agenda, just with flesh on the policy bones.

Most of the best known and least popular parts of the project's 900-plus pages,the ones that media accounts and Democrats have spotlighted — "Can you believe they put that thing in writing?" Harris mockingly asks rally crowds lately — are in fact ideas that Trump himself calls for.

Among them: Abolish the Department of Education. Gut the civil service system and return to a spoils system rewarding MAGA loyalists with federal jobs. Tear down the ethics wall that's blocked White House interference in Justice Department prosecutions and FBI investigations since Watergate so that Trump can deep-six the criminal cases against him and order up new ones against his enemies.

And more: Mount immigration raids nationwide, with the military's help, and deport millions living and working here without authorization. Repeal climate change mitigation programs and other environmental regulations. End affirmative action. Undo President Biden's student loan relief program.

Trump has talked about them all. Where he and Project 2025 mainly diverge is on abortion. Like the rest of us, the former president has seen the decisive power of abortion rights voters in every election since his Supreme Court appointees enabled the reversal of Roe in 2022. He's desperate to duck talk about further federal abortion restrictions and insists he'd leave the issue to the states. Project 2025, however, proposes a number of federal limits on abortion and contraception, and a ban on shipping the pills that account for nearly two-thirds of abortions.

Let's say Trump, as president, does leave abortion issues to the states. As we've seen already, his antiabortion appointees to the federal courts almost certainly wouldn't hesitate to rule in ways that affect us all. And that still leaves all those other policy areas where Project 2025 reflects his policy wish list.

Get familiar with Project 2025, if you're not. Trump's advisors can welcome the reports of its demise, as they say. But the truth is,reports of its death are greatly exaggerated. The only way to put a stake through the thing is to make sure Trump isn't returned to the White House.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If Trump loses, are we prepared for the backlash?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

If you watched as much of the Republican National Convention as I did, you must have been impressed by the energy, unity and commitment of the speakers and delegates. One could sense the momentum building.

And if the convention's enthusiasm for former President Donald Trump is a reliable reflection of the wishes of millions of American voters, it suggests the very credible possibility that Trump could be reelected to the presidency in November.

Things changed when President Joe Biden dropped out, but I suspect that the substitution of Kamala Harris did little to dampen the commitment of millions of Americans to see Donald Trump back in the White House.

A Trump win is a disconcerting prospect for millions of Americans, for various reasons.

For example, many are worried about the rise of autocracy around the world and are concerned that the reelection of Trump will encourage autocrats. In fact, Trump gave Viktor Orban, the anti-democratic prime minister of Hungary, a favorable mention during his nomination acceptance speech at the RNC, calling him a "tough guy."

Domestically, other issues that Americans care about will fare poorly under a second Trump presidency: Abortion. Climate change mitigation. Sensible gun laws. If Trump is reelected, the future of these issues and many others will veer in ways that most Americans don't want.

But here's the thing about a Trump victory: Even though many Americans may not like the resulting policies and administrative actions, a win by Trump is still in the realm of normal American politics as it reflects the choices voters make at the ballot box.

But what if Trump loses? What happens to all of the energy and commitment we witnessed at the Republican convention? And should we be worried about it?

Any consideration of these questions has to begin with this stipulation: Under no circumstances will Donald Trump concede that he lost the election, whether the margin is a little or a landslide.

Even before voting began in 2016, Trump contended that the only way he could lose was if the election was rigged. When he lost in 2020, he claimed that the election was stolen from him. He hasn't conceded the last election; there's no reason to think that he'll concede this one.

Of course, in 2020 Trump was president and he had certain powers at his disposal that he no longer has. Still, it's dangerous to downplay the passion and commitment on display at the Republican convention by thousands of Trump supporters, who are representative of millions more nationwide. Just as Trump will not accept a loss, neither will they.

What does it mean, in a republic, if millions refuse to accept the results of an election, especially if a significant number of them are well-armed and have a passionate, cult-like commitment to a powerful personality? How do we prepare for their reaction to a Trump loss?

Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 was the catalyst that caused southern states to begin to secede from the union. Armed rebellion was imminent and threats to Lincoln's life were credible. Security was in the hands of the Commanding General of the United States Army, Winfield Scott, a grizzled veteran of the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War and the Indian wars.

But Scott was born in Virginia, and Lincoln felt compelled to confirm his loyalty and commitment to the transfer of power after a disputed election. Scott replied: "If necessary I shall plant cannon at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, and if any of the Maryland or Virginia gentlemen who have become so threatening and troublesome show their heads or even venture to raise a finger, I shall blow them to hell."

Is this a fanciful, alarmist overreaction in our current situation? Maybe. But remember how shocked we were by Jan. 6, which was a systematically orchestrated attempt to nullify an election by force. We must be as prepared to protect the republic as General Scott was in 1860. To be any less prepared for the worst possibilities would be dangerously naïve.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Overlooked culture

I love my island and my people, and it breaks my heart to see the Refaluwasch culture overlooked on the world stage.

Chamorro culture gets lots of love, like in NOAA Fisheries' blog "Communicating Science in Saipan" from Sept. 14, 2018, where they say "Hafa adai! (That's how you say 'hello' in the Mariana Islands.)"

Aren't we Refaluwasch part of the Mariana Islands too? Where's our loud and proud "Tirow"?

In 2019, my then-boyfriend, now husband, and I moved to the United States. It hurt to leave our beautiful home and family, and we still get homesick. But as love-struck teens, we were determined to make something of ourselves. Since moving here and becoming a recruiter, I've shared my story as an islander from Saipan with hundreds of people. I often hear, "Where is that? Is it near Hawaii? Are you Samoan?"

It's frustrating that so many people don't know about us. Maybe I haven't done enough to educate the world about our culture and history. We need to do more to shine a light on our unique identity, Refaluwasch and Chamorro alike.

We have such a rich heritage and vibrant traditions that deserve to be recognized and celebrated. Our language, our dances, our stories—they all tell the tale of a resilient and proud people. It's time we step up and make our voices heard.

What can I do to help spread the word and celebrate our culture?

Mai Teregeyo
Chalan Lau Lau

EVERYONE

From page 7

options for addressing them. So would more investment in the Government Accountability Office's science, technology assessment and analytics team.

Americans disagree on many things. But a civil service that competently serves their interests shouldn't be controversial. Congress should see these court rulings as the opportunity that they are.

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Yes, New Jersey can ban the AR-15. Here's why

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."

Does a state have the power to ban the AR-15 semiautomatic rifle owned by millions of Americans, favored by mass shooters, and recently used in the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump? A federal district court judge thinks that the answer is no because of the Supreme Court's Second Amendment jurisprudence. Last week, he struck down New Jersey's long-standing ban on the weapons as unconstitutional. The outcome, he said, was compelled by the justices' notorious 2022 decision in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen.

The ruling on New Jersey's ban will be appealed and could well reach the Supreme Court, giving the justices a chance to interpret their own recent precedent. If they're pragmatic, they'd find a way to allow such state bans. If they're radical, they'll make AR-15 ownership a fundamental right of all Americans.

The opinion by the judge, Peter Sheridan, was written in an unusual tone. Appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, he is a judicial conservative but not a nut, to use the late Justice Antonin Scalia's distinction. The judge wrote that he found it "hard to accept" the Supreme Court's precedent on guns so long as "radical individuals" use those guns "for evil purposes." He bemoaned the "reckless inaction of our governmental leaders to address the mass shooting tragedy afflicting our nation." Yet he concluded, apparently with regret, that he was bound by Supreme Court precedent and had no choice but to strike down the New Jersey law.

But a careful reading of that precedent suggests that Sheridan did have the option of upholding New Jersey's ban — as the state argued in the case (and as I argued in this column last year).

The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Second Amendment right to bear arms should today be understood as a right to self-defense. Following that logic, Second Amendment rights should not extend to weapons that are primarily offensive in nature, like semiautomatic rifles. Although you can certainly use an AR-15 in self-defense, that is not the ordinary purpose of a weapon that was conceived as the domestic equivalent of the military M-16 rifle — capable of firing a hail of bullets at long range. Therefore, the judge would have been on solid ground had he concluded that the New Jersey ban is constitutional.

But Sheridan noted that self-defense is often described as a "lawful purpose," raising the possibility that what really matters is not if people lawfully use a gun in self-defense, but if they lawfully possess that weapon at all. So many people have AR-15s in their homes, he wrote, he could not avoid the conclusion that the weapon is lawfully possessed for purposes of self-defense.

Sheridan then turned to the Bruen decision, which relied on "history and tradition" to ascertain whether analogous bans had existed when the Second Amendment was ratified. New Jersey pointed out that certain kinds of weapons have long been banned, such as trap guns, Bowie knives and slingshots. Sheridan dismissed the comparison out of hand, stating flatly that the law must be unconstitutional because it banned weapons sometimes used in self-defense.

The challenge for the Supreme Court, in the likely event that the case reaches it, will be similar to the challenge it faced this past term in the Rahimi case. There, it had to decide whether the Second Amendment provided a constitutional right for domestic abusers to carry weapons. It would have seemed absurd to say yes; but that's in fact how lower courts interpreted the justices' sweeping Bruen opinion.

The justices responded by narrowing the Bruen precedent to include the prohibition of gun ownership by domestic abusers. By a vote of 8-1, the court held in Rahimi that the analogy to past prohibitions didn't have to be too close. The Second Amendment, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, must not be understood as "trapped in amber." The only dissenter was Justice Clarence Thomas—who wrote Bruen.

In the AR-15 case, the justices would face a similar concern. It seems dangerously absurd to constitutionalize semiautomatic rifle ownership in an era of mass shootings. They could hold that the AR-15 is not essentially a weapon of self-defense. Or they could say that it can be a weapon of self-defense, but nevertheless accept the analogy to slingshots and Bowie knives, also dual-use weapons.

This would be the right result, but it would be a mistake to predict with any confidence that it will happen.

Gun proponents love their AR-15s, and an estimated 16 million people in the US own at least one. The conservative justices might well conclude that broad ownership, coupled with the possibility of self-defense use, really is the right standard for establishing Second Amendment rights.

The framers would be appalled. They wrote the Second Amendment with a specific, textual explanation that the right to bear arms matters in the context of "a well-regulated militia."

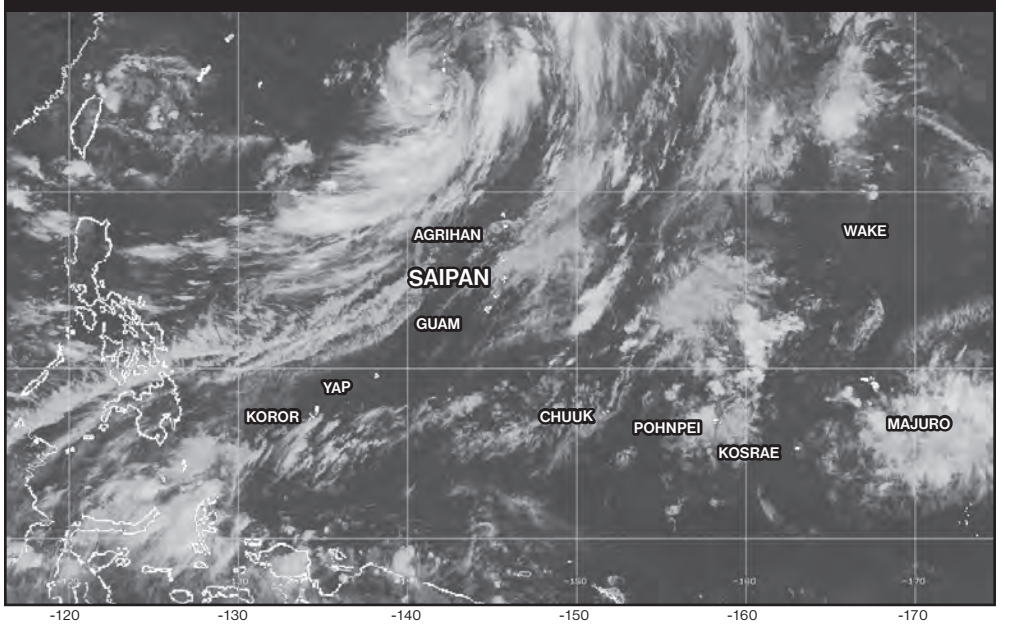
The Supreme Court's gun jurisprudence has ignored that text, but the result is worse than false originalism, or a distortion of constitutional text and history. It's a masquerade that costs lives.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers, becoming mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with scattered showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.
87° / 77°	86° / 77°	87° / 77°	87° / 77°	87° / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:37 AM TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weather forecast remains largely unchanged. Introduced higher shower coverage and locally heavy rainfall potential for today, as island showers remain highly likely during peak heating hours. Meanwhile, the marine forecast remains unchanged.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 77°
Paris	Thunderstorms	68° / 54°
Busan	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Tokyo	Cloudy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83° / 69°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:48 AM	9:11 PM	-
Friday	9:33 AM	9:43 PM	-
Saturday	10:19 AM	10:16 PM	-
Sunday	11:06 AM	10:52 PM	-
Monday	11:55 AM	11:30 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:13 AM	Low Tide	1.08
9:17 AM	High Tide	1.85
4:11 PM	Low Tide	0.40
10:40 PM	High Tide	1.90

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant introduces lunch buffet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant is under new management and to entice new customers, the Susupe establishment launched its own lunch buffet last month.

Arlene L. Calvo, who co-owns the restaurant with Deborah G. Ladringan, said wishing to make a name for themselves and the lack of tourists led them to start a lunch buffet.

"The low number of tourists coming into the CNMI and the slow economy made us decide to start a lunch buffet at a very affordable price of only $11.99. We are very unique because our lunch buffet offers a variety of authentic Korean, Lao, Thai, as well as authentic Filipino dishes," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant is located at the Joeten Building right across Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant's Bicol express and Korean soy fried chicken.

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant's Thai fried spring rolls and pork larb.

The 90-seat Dae Jang Kum Restaurant has a revolving lunch buffet that includes appetizers, several main dishes, fruits, soup, and drinks.

"We are thankful to our customers because they are helpful in spreading word of our lunch buffet to their families and friends," said Calvo,

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant's lunch buffet is also very convenient to those who take late lunches as it's from 11am to 3pm, Monday-Sunday.

As for diving head first into the restaurant industry despite the current economic morass of the CNMI, Calvo said she has fate in their abilities and the kind of food they offer.

"This restaurant is eight years old. We acquired it March 26, 2024. You will never know when opportunity knocks. I believe it's the right time. I believe in our capabilities. I believe in my business partners. We all are working hard to make this restaurant stronger than ever. I also believe this restaurant has big potential for locals and the tourist industry. I also decided to be an entrepreneur because I now have all the freedom I need. I don't have too many bosses anymore," said the Castillejos, Zambales in the Philippines native.

Aside from the lunch buffet, Calvo also wants customers to try Dae Jang Kum Restaurant's Unlimited Korean Pork BBQ Set. It's only $25 per customer and comes with unlimited banchan and served with enoki mushrooms, lettuce, shrimp or mussels, and rice plus one free cocktail drink.

Bestsellers in their ala carte menu include fresh sashimi tuna, black bean sauce noodles, cabbage hangover soup, YangNyeom chicken wings, soy fried chicken, galbi jjim, samgyeopsal Korean BBQ, pad Thai, fried spring rolls, and beef caldereta.

Dae Jang Kum Restaurant, located at the Joeten Building right across Saipan World Resort, is open from 10am to 9pm every day. For more information, call (670) 234-9595 or go to their Facebook page under the name New Dae Jang Kum.

The 90-seat Dae Jang Kum Restaurant has a revolving lunch buffet that includes appetizers, several main dishes, fruits, soup, and drinks.

Calm returns to Wall Street, stocks bounce back after worst drop in nearly 2 years

NEW YORK (AP)—A rising tide swept stocks higher, and calm returned to Wall Street after Japan's market soared earlier Tuesday to claw back much of the losses from its worst day since 1987.

The S&P 500 climbed 1% to break a brutal three-day losing streak. It had tumbled a bit more than 6% on a raft of concerns, including worries the Federal Reserve had pressed the brakes too hard for too long on the U.S. economy through high interest rates in order to beat inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 294 points, or 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite gained 1%. Stocks of all kinds climbed in a mirror opposite of the day before, from smaller companies that need U.S. households to keep spending to huge multinationals more dependent on the global economy.

Stronger-than-expected profit reports from several big U.S. companies helped drive the market. Kenvue, the company behind Tylenol and Band-Aids, jumped 14.7% after reporting stronger profit than expected thanks in part to higher prices for its products. Uber rolled 10.9% higher after easily topping profit forecasts for the latest quarter.

Caterpillar climbed 3% after the maker of heavy machinery reported stronger earnings than expected.

The whiplash moves for financial markets globally have been the result of several technical factors, not just worries ignited by several weaker-than-expected reports on the U.S. economy, in what strategists at Barclays called "a perfect storm" for causing extreme market moves. One is centered in Tokyo, where a favorite trade for hedge funds and other investors began unraveling last week after the Bank of Japan made borrowing more expensive by raising interest rates above virtually zero.

That scrambled trades where investors had borrowed Japanese yen at low cost and invested the cash elsewhere around the world. The resulting exits from those investments may have helped accelerate the declines for markets around the world.

A judge has branded Google a monopolist, but AI may bring about quicker change in internet search

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge has branded Google as a ruthless monopolist bent on suffocating it competitors. But how do you go about creating alternatives to a search engine that's synonymous with internet exploration?

It's a process that may take years to unfold as Google appeals the landmark decision issued Monday by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta.

And with that kind of time frame looming, the forces of technological upheaval may make the exercise moot.

The rise of artificial intelligence may reshape the landscape more quickly and profoundly than any judge ever could. The way consumers navigate the internet is more likely to be affected by advances in AI products — such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's own Gemini—before a nearly 4-year-old case brought by the U.S. Justice Department is finally resolved.

Even so, Mehta's 277-page ruling Monday creates challenges for Google that company founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin probably didn't envision when they set out to revolutionize internet search while attending Stanford University as graduate students. They eventually dropped out to start a Silicon Valley company in 1998 that adopted "Don't Be Evil" as a motto that also was meant to serve as its corporate conscience.

Page and Brin, who remain the controlling shareholders of Google's corporate parent Alphabet Inc., also cast their cuddly startup as a crusader for technology that would be far better than the products coming out of Microsoft, the industry's reigning kingpin at the time. Microsoft's dominance of personal computer software and anticompetitive tactics during the 1990s spurred another Justice Department case that ended up hobbling Microsoft and helped make it easier for Google to build its lead in search and then expand into maps, cloud computing, email (Gmail), web browsers (Chrome) and video (YouTube).

Nation

Harris' choice of Walz amps up excitement in Midwestern states

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will spend their first full day as running mates on Wednesday rallying Democrats across the Midwest, a politically divided region that is crucial to their effort to win the White House in less than three months.

The trip, which begins in Wisconsin before shifting to Michigan, is aimed at shoring up support among the younger, diverse, labor-friendly voters who were instrumental in helping President Joe Biden win the 2020 election. But that coalition showed signs of fraying over the summer, particularly in Michigan, which has emerged as a focal point of Democratic divisions over Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

With Biden now out of the race and Harris officially the Democratic nominee, leaders of the Arab American community and key unions say they are encouraged by the choice. Walz's addition to the ticket has soothed some tensions, signaling to some community leaders that Harris heard concerns about another leading contender for the vice presidential slot, Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, who they felt had gone too far in his support for Israel.

"The party is recognizing that there's a coalition they have to rebuild," said Abdullah Hammoud, the mayor of Dearborn, Michigan. "Picking Walz is another sign of good faith."

Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat seeking a third term, appeared with Harris at a campaign stop there last month in suburban Milwaukee, and said in a fundraising email Tuesday morning that she was "thrilled to see a fellow Midwesterner at the top of the ticket."

Donald Trump had put a similar emphasis on appealing to voters in Midwestern states with his choice of Ohio Sen. JD Vance as his vice presidential pick. Vance will again bracket the Harris-Walz ticket with appearances in the same states on Wednesday. He is starting his day in Michigan before heading to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the same city where the Democratic candidates will appear hours later before going to Michigan.

In Michigan, leaders say Democratic enthusiasm has surged since Harris announced her candidacy.

That could be pivotal in Detroit, which is nearly 80% Black, where leaders for months had warned administration officials that voter apathy could cost them in a city that's typically a stronghold for their party. Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the NAACP Detroit branch, said the excitement in the city now is "mind-blowing." He likened it to Barack Obama's first run for president in 2008, when voters waited in long lines to help elect the nation's first Black president.

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World

IN SHOW OF DEFIANCE

Hamas names Sinwar as new leader

BEIRUT (AP)—Hamas on Tuesday named Yahya Sinwar, its top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, as its new leader in a dramatic sign of the power of the Palestinian militant group's hardline wing after his predecessor was killed in a presumed Israeli strike in Iran.

Sinwar

The selection of Sinwar, a secretive figure close to Iran who worked for years to build up Hamas' military strength, was a defiant signal that the group is prepared to keep fighting after 10 months of destruction from Israel's campaign in Gaza and after the assassination of Sinwar's predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh.

It is also likely to provoke Israel, which has put him at the top of its kill list after the Oct. 7 attack, in which militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel and took about 250 as hostages.

The announcement comes at volatile moment. Fears are high of an escalation into a wider regional war, with Iran vowing revenge against Israel over Haniyeh's killing and Lebanon's Hezbollah threatening to retaliate over Israel's killing of one of its top commanders in an airstrike in Beirut last week. American, Egyptian and Qatari mediators are trying to salvage negotiations over a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza, shaken by Haniyeh' killing.

Hamas said in a statement it named Sinwar as the new head of its political bureau to replace Haniyeh, who was killed in a blast that Iran and Hamas blamed on Israel. Israel has not confirmed or denied responsibility. Also last week, Israel said it had confirmed the death of the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, in a July airstrike in Gaza. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

In reaction to the appointment, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya televsion, "There is only one place for Yahya Sinwar, and it is beside Mohammed Deif and the rest of the October 7th terrorists. That is the only place we're preparing and intending for him."

Israel's killings of multiple senior officials in Hamas over recent months left Sinwar as the most prominent figure in the group. His selection signals that the leadership on the ground in Gaza — particularly the armed wing known as the Qassam Brigades — has taken over from the leadership in exile, which has traditionally maintained the position of the overall leadership to navigate relations with foreign allies and diplomacy.

Haniyeh, who had lived in self-imposed exile in Qatar since 2019, had played a direct role in negotiations over a cease-fire in Gaza through U.S., Qatari and Egyptian negotiators — though he and other Hamas officials always ran proposals and positions by Sinwar.

Speaking to Al-Jazeera television after the announcement, Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan said Sinwar would continue the cease-fire negotiations.

"The problem in negotiations is not the change in Hamas," he said, blaming Israel and its ally the United States for the failure to seal a deal.

But he said said Sinwar's selection was a sign the group's will had not been broken. Hamas "remains steadfast in the battlefield and in politics," he said. "The person leading today is the one who led the fighting for more than 305 days and is still steadfast in the field."

Hamas' allies Iran and Hezbollah issued statements praising Sinwar's appointment.

Russia says it's fighting a cross-border attack by Ukrainian forces

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian authorities claimed that a Ukrainian force launched an incursion on Tuesday into Russia's Kursk region but was being beaten back by troops and local border guards.

The Russian Defense Ministry said as many as 300 Ukrainian troops, supported by 11 tanks and more than 20 armored combat vehicles, attacked Russian border positions in the area of Nikolayevo-Daryino and Oleshnya in the Kursk region.

It claimed that six Ukrainian tanks, four armored personnel carriers and six other armored vehicles were destroyed in the fighting.

The Russian report could not be independently verified. Disinformation and propaganda have played a central role in the war, now in its third year.

Responsibility for previous incursions, into Russia's Belgorod and Bryansk regions, have been claimed by two murky groups: the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion.

The Russian statement claimed the Ukrainian forces belonged to the army's 22nd Mechanized Brigade, but also referred to them as "fighters" rather than "soldiers."

Contacted by The Associated Press, the brigade said it had no comment. The Freedom of Russia Legion also said it was not commenting.

The Ukrainian General Staff and Ministry of Defense did not immediately reply to questions.

The acting governor of the Kursk region, Alexei Smirnov, said a total of 26 Ukrainian drones were shot down in the area during the night.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift leads 2024 MTV Video Music Awards nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—It's Taylor Swift's world, and the MTV Video Music Award nominations are the latest proof.

"The Tortured Poets Department" singer once again tops the VMA noms with 10—eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

AP
Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour on Friday, June 21, 2024 in London.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees announced Tuesday are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.

Swift took home nine VMAs last year, bringing her total to an impressive 23. That places her just behind Beyoncé, who has 28 (two with Destiny's Child) and just ahead of Madonna, who has 20 awards, and Lady Gaga, who has 19.

The 2024 MTV VMAs will air live on Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Grande, Carpenter and Eminem are tied with six nods; Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have five each. Blackpink's LISA, Olivia Rodrigo and Teddy Swims follow with four nominations.

This year marks 29 first-time nominees, which include Wallen, Carpenter and Swims as well as Benson Boone and Tyla—the latter boast three nominations each.

Also nominated for the first time in 2024 are Chappell Roan, Coco Jones, Gracie Abrams, Jelly Roll, Jessie Murph, LE SSERAFIM, Morgan Wallen, Rauw Alejandro, RAYE, Sexyy Red, Shaboozey, Tyla, Tyler Childers, Victoria Monet and more.

The VMAs will be held at the UBS Arena on New York's Long Island. Fan voting begins online Tuesday across 15 gender-neutral categories and ends Aug. 30.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active throughout the show.

Billy Ray Cyrus finalizes divorce from singer Firerose 3 months after filing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Billy Ray Cyrus and Firerose are now divorced.

The dissolution of their seven-month marriage was finalized Monday by a Williamson County judge in Tennessee three months after Cyrus filed for divorce.

Cyrus

Cyrus, 62, cited irreconcilable differences and "inappropriate marital conduct" when he filed for divorce from the 36-year-old, whose legal name is Johanna Rose Hodges.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Cyrus' lawyers, Rose Palermo and Jason Talley of Cheatham Palermo & Garrett, said he and Hodges reached a settlement Friday, adding that Cyrus is "relieved to put this nightmare behind him."

"I'm just very relieved... and giving thanks today to breathe a sigh of relief," Cyrus said in a statement. "It's unfortunate… it played out this way."

"It was a matter of the heart. Love is blind … that's for sure. B.R.C.," his statement concluded.

Cyrus' lawyers claimed in their statement that Hodges legally changed her last name to Cyrus before mediation, which they say Cyrus feels "validates his assertion that his ex-wife's sole impetus for marrying him was to obtain his last name."

Hodges' lawyers did not immediately return requests for comment.

The court documents show neither party will pay spousal support, and much of the division of assets is based on ownership before the two married.

At the time of the initial May filing, Cyrus was also seeking an annulment due to fraud on Hodges' part, saying in the filing that he would not have married Hodges "had he known" about the alleged fraud. The filing gave no further details on the alleged inappropriate conduct or fraud but said each should be able to keep property that they own separately.

Barkley says he'll not retire and remain with TNT Sports even if they don't have the NBA

Charles Barkley intends to remain with TNT Sports through the remainder of his contract.

The Hall of Fame player announced Tuesday that he will not retire next season, reversing the announcement he made in June during the NBA Finals.

Barkley said at the time that the 2024-25 season would be his last on television, no matter what eventually happened with the NBA's media deal negotiations. He signed a 10-year contract extension with TNT Sports in 2022.

Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent company of TNT Sports, has sued the NBA in New York state court after the league did not accept the company's matching offer for one of the packages in its new 11-year media rights deal, which will begin with the 2025-26 season.

AP
Charles Barkley arrives at the NBA Awards on June 24, 2019, at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

"I love my TNT Sports family. My (number one) 1 priority has been and always will be our people and keeping everyone together for as long as possible. We have the most amazing people, and they are the best at what they do. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with them both on the shows we currently have and new ones we develop together in the future. This is the only place for me," Barkley said in a statement. "I have to say ... I've been impressed by the leadership team who is fighting hard and have been aggressive in adding new properties to TNT Sports, which I am very excited about. I appreciate them and all of my colleagues for their continued support, and most importantly our fans. I'm going to give my all as we keep them entertained for years to come." ***(AP)***

Wife has doubts about man's fidelity, among other things

DEAR ABBY: During my entire 40-year marriage, I have wondered if my husband is bisexual. He met his friend "Ernie" around the same time he met me. My husband has always had female friends as well as Ernie. When he came home late, I'd accuse him of having affairs with his female co-workers.

We have stayed together, although there have been a lot of arguments. Years ago, my brother-in-law went golfing with my husband and Ernie. My brother-in-law told me my problem wasn't another woman—it was a man. When I asked why he thought that, he said my husband and Ernie were in their own little world. He said he wasn't jealous of their friendship, but it was just his opinion.

To cut to the chase, not long ago, my husband and three other friends went on a golf trip. There was a king-size bed in the master bedroom, a second bedroom with two queen-size beds, and a sofa sleeper. I asked my husband about the sleeping arrangements, and he said one slept on the couch, one in the room with two queen beds, and he and Ernie shared the king-size bed.

When I asked what the other guys thought about the two of them sleeping in the same bed he yelled, "I don't care what they thought!" I said, "And it appears you don't care what your wife thinks either."

My husband has always said, "There isn't another woman. You know I love you." He has always denied being bi. He makes me feel like I'm crazy. Please tell me what you think.

FINALLY FED UP IN DELAWARE

DEAR FED UP: For two men to share a bed when there is another option is, in my opinion, questionable. Never having met your husband, I hesitate to state whether he is or isn't cheating on you with Ernie. Being bisexual does not make a person an adulterer. If he were to confirm your suspicion that he is bisexual, would it change your longtime marriage? THAT, my friend, is the $64,000 question.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm sure I am not alone on this subject. Occasionally, when I'm in a restaurant, the mall, the grocery store, etc., I'll run into a former co-worker, former classmate, someone I met at a past gathering, etc., and in the moment, I cannot recall their name. This is especially embarrassing when my spouse or a friend is with me and I can't introduce the person.

Sometimes, when someone is with me and I see an acquaintance before they see me, I'll make a detour to avoid the embarrassment of blanking on their names. If I'm alone, I have no problem conversing with the individual even if I can't recall a name. My problem is those embarrassing introductions. Any suggestions?

FORGETFUL IN HAWAII

DEAR FORGETFUL: I agree, it IS embarrassing, and it happens to everyone. It happened to me occasionally when I was in my 20s and needed to introduce my date to someone. There IS a way to get around it, provided you are fast enough. If a "senior moment" isn't something you are willing to admit, then greet your old co-worker, friend, etc., and say something like, "Hi! How NICE to see you!" Then turn to your spouse (or friend) and say, "We used to work together," and let them introduce THEMSELVES.

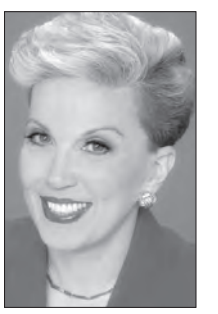
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

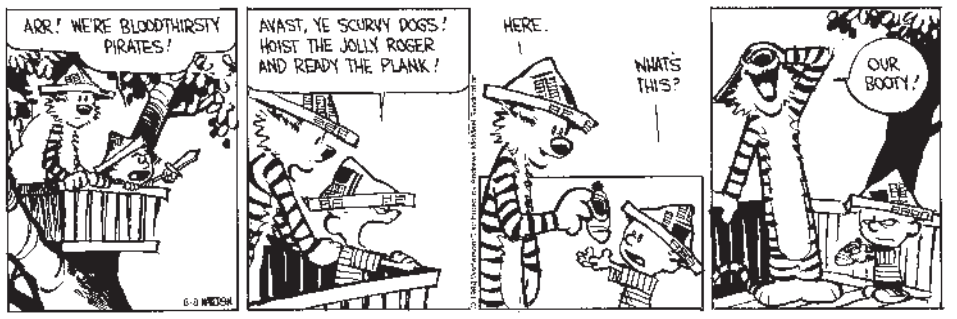


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

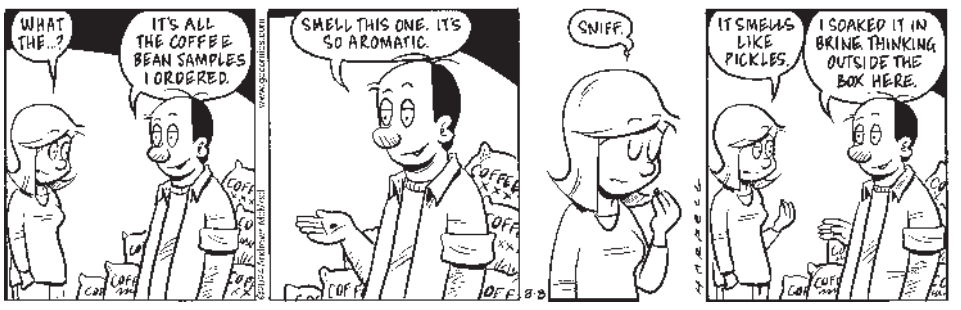


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

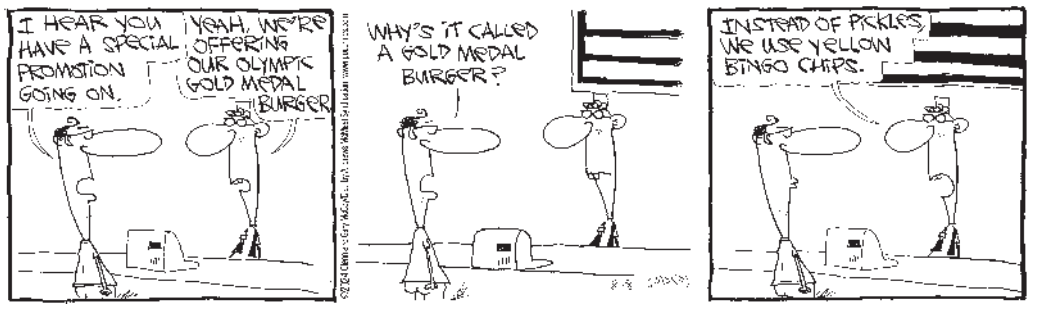
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT THE...?
IT'S ALL THE COFFEE BEAN SAMPLES I ORDERED.
SMELL THIS ONE. IT'S SO AROMATIC.
SNIFF.
IT SMELLS LIKE PICKLES.
I SOAKED IT IN BRINE THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX HERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I HEAR YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PROMOTION GOING ON.
YEAH, WE'RE OFFERING OUR OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL BURGER.
WHY'S IT CALLED A GOLD MEDAL BURGER?
INSTEAD OF PICKLES, WE USE YELLOW BINGO CHIPS.

CROSSWORD

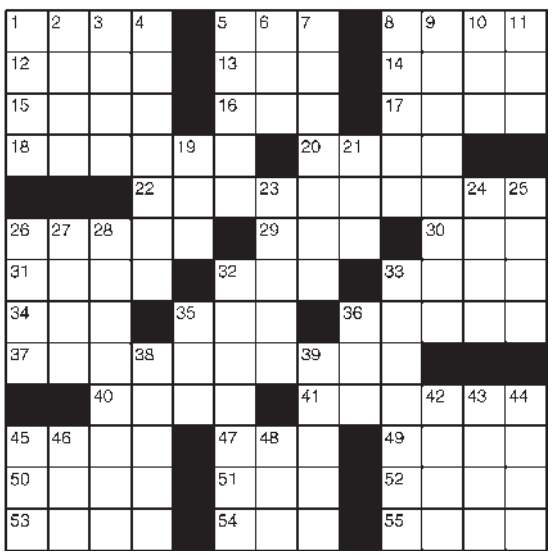
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Durango home
5 Tampa Bay NFLer
8 Designer Rabanne
12 Mosque VIP
13 Punk-rock sub-genre
14 Big-screen format
15 Verdi heroine
16 Opening
17 Comic Jay
18 Black Sea port
20 Nest egg choices
22 Marching formation
26 Drive away
29 San Francisco's — Hill
30 Poetic contraction
31 Nile bird
32 Cereal grain
33 Pitcher
34 Sandy shade
35 ER workers
36 Luminaries
37 Admirer of English things
40 Milne bruin
41 Despot
45 Elitist
47 Ecol. watchdog
49 Linguist Chomsky
50 Logical
51 Online address
52 "— Karenina"
53 Early birds?
54 Tofu source
55 Low-fat

DOWN
1 Pisa farewell
2 During
3 "Maureen" singer
4 Gathers
5 Started
6 Ms. Thurman
7 Cockpit colleague
8 Kebab go-with
9 Midwest university city
10 Paint container
11 Tic-tac-toe loser
19 Part of RSVP
21 Civil War soldier
23 Grind one's teeth
24 Ogler's look
25 Goofs
26 Broadway star Moreno
27 Abba of Israel
28 Table game
32 Husband of Eurydice
33 Unending
35 Scooby-—
36 Devious
38 Oft-pierced ear areas
39 Tuscany setting
42 Top-of-the-line
43 "Peter Pan" dog
44 Eliot Ness, e.g.
45 Compass dir.
46 Pester
48 Expert

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Guy Burnet, 41; Countess Vaughn, 46; Joely Collins, 52; Dustin Hoffman, 87.

Happy Birthday: Conversations will shape how your year unfolds. Surround yourself with people you trust to tell you the truth. Stick to basics and simplify your life to make room for what matters. Search for the path and projects that make you feel good about yourself and your accomplishments. Hard work, discipline and common sense will achieve the desired success and rewards. Your numbers are 2, 12, 19, 27, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Become a ringleader and set the stage for success. Let your action lead the way, and opportunity will follow. Enlist complementary groups or organizations that can help further your cause. Socialize with people who share your concerns. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of errands and responsibilities, and focus on details that will accentuate your talents. Your associates will recognize and support you if you are energetic and reliable. Don't limit what you can do; set goals and enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think twice before you commit to changes. Hasty decisions will complicate your life, causing uncertainty or financial burdens. Reinforce what is possible, and take a wait-and-see approach to matters that require more thought and promise. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Opportunities are within reach, and your intuition is on target. Don't let insecurity stand between you and what you want. Take the plunge and do what you do best. Timing is everything; don't skip a beat. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Participation will lead to mixed messages. Weigh the pros and cons before signing up for something that wastes too much time or money. Get the lowdown on anything you are considering before you make promises you regret. Generosity will lead to trouble. Put yourself first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Do your due diligence before you sign up for something you know little about. Believe in yourself instead of following someone else's lead. Discovery is golden and will set your mind at ease and point you in a direction that fortifies your beliefs. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Procrastination will lead to a could have, should have, would have mentality. Step up and be the one to initiate change instead of letting someone control your fate. There is power in taking charge and satisfaction in change that makes your life function better. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Tune into what's necessary and follow through without hesitation. Taking the initiative will make others take notice, opening doors to exciting opportunities. You'll attract offers from sources that need you more than you need them. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn through observation. If you are too revealing, you'll allow someone to outmaneuver you. Partnerships are favored, but only if equality prevails. Keep the playing field level by divulging only what's necessary until you reach an agreement. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Reiterate your position, beliefs and desires before you proceed with negotiations or sign up for something that might offer insight into how to go about achieving your goal. Listen attentively, ask questions and adjust what's essential. A discussion with someone special will alter your plans. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Focus on home and family; you'll make headway emotionally and financially. The plans you initiate will positively impact you and help you achieve a stress-free lifestyle. Choose quality over quantity and live and enjoy the moment. A partnership requires attention and adjustments. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Sit back and wait. The more information you gather, the easier it is to make good decisions. Walk away from temptation and those full of bluster and hype. It is best to forgo partnerships and invest more time and effort in promoting yourself. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, helpful and generous. You are thoughtful and intuitive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4			5			
		2			8	7	5	3
8	5				7	9		
	1			9			6	
	3			1		4	7	
					4		3	
9			6	7				8
	6			4				5
								7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	6	4	8	2	3	9	5	7
5	3	2	7	6	9	8	4	1
8	7	9	4	1	5	6	3	2
3	1	8	2	4	6	5	7	9
4	5	6	3	9	7	1	2	8
9	2	7	1	5	8	3	6	4
6	4	5	9	8	2	7	1	3
7	9	1	6	3	4	2	8	5
2	8	3	5	7	1	4	9	6

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Difficulty: ★★★ 8/7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT'S IN YOUR POKE BOWL? Solution: 7 letters

S	E	S	A	M	E	O	I	L	C	Y	E	N	O	H
H	A	H	C	A	R	I	R	S	H	S	I	D	T	A
R	I	S	H	R	E	D	D	E	D	A	A	A	P	W
I	L	J	H	R	E	G	N	I	G	C	N	P	A	A
M	I	E	A	I	E	C	I	R	O	G	E	S	E	I
P	H	L	M	L	M	B	A	V	Y	T	A	P	L	I
A	C	Z	S	O	A	I	A	S	I	B	Ⓦ	E	P	A
I	H	Z	W	C	N	P	M	Z	I	Ⓐ	O	P	P	N
M	I	I	E	B	O	O	E	S	Ⓡ	N	A	P	A	N
A	C	R	E	S	O	R	A	N	I	E	G	E	E	O
D	K	D	T	R	T	L	N	O	O	L	C	R	N	O
A	E	U	H	O	M	A	N	G	O	Y	I	I	I	D
C	N	S	E	O	F	L	A	V	O	R	A	M	P	L
A	U	Z	N	O	P	U	O	S	I	M	A	M	U	E
M	A	R	I	N	A	T	E	C	U	A	S	Y	O	S

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Appetizer, Avocado, Chicken, Chili, Corn, Dish, Drizzle, Flavor, Ginger, Grain, Hawaiian, Honey, Jalapeño, Lemon, Limu, Macadamia, Mango, Marinate, Mayo, Miso, Mushrooms, Noodles, Onion, Pepper, Pineapple, Ponzu, Raw, Recipe, Rice, Salmon, Sashimi, Sesame Oil, Shredded, Shrimp, Soy Sauce, Sriracha, Sweet, Tangy, Tofu, Tuna, Umami, Wasabi, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Reflection

The NEW **Treasury 56** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Thomas leads Americans to 2 golds—5 overall—at track and field

PARIS (AP)—The United States had a big night in track and field at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday, winning two gold medals and five overall.

Gabby Thomas blazed her way to an easy win in the 200 meters—and beat 100-meter winner Julien Alfred, who earned silver and now owns the only two medals in her country's history. American sprinter Brittany Brown was third.

Thomas finished in 21.83 seconds to add a gold to the bronze she took home in the event from Tokyo three years ago. The 27-year-old Harvard graduate, who has a Masters in public health, took the lead for good at the curve and was never challenged in the final stretch. She grabbed her head with both hands after winning.

Cole Hocker, meanwhile, pulled the upset of the track meet with a stunning victory in the 1,500 meters.

Hocker outraced favorites Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Josh Kerr to the finish line in an Olympic record 3 minutes 27.65 seconds. He pulled from fifth to first over the final 300 meters to beat his personal best by more than 3 seconds.

He beat Kerr by .14 seconds, while Ingebrigtsen, who set the pace through the first 1200 meters, ended up in fourth behind American Yared Nuguse.

Annette Nneka Echikunwoke won a silver in the women's hammer throw.

A look at other events from Day 11 of the Paris Olympics:

AP

Gabrielle Thomas, of the United States, reacts after winning the women's 200-meters final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France.

Khelif advances to gold medal match

Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria advanced to the gold-medal bout in the women's welterweight division with a semifinal victory.

Khelif defeated Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand 5:0 in the semifinals at Roland Garros, where the crowd roared and chanted her name throughout her three-round fight. Khelif has won three consecutive bouts in Paris, and she will win either a gold or a silver medal when she completes the tournament on Friday.

She has faced scrutiny during these Games over misconceptions about her gender.

Khelif had already clinched Algeria's first medal in women's boxing before she stepped into the ring to rousing roars at Court Philippe Chatrier.

With one more victory, Khelif would win Algeria's second boxing gold medal, joining Hocine Soltani (1996).

US women's soccer team to play for gold

The United States women's soccer team advanced to the gold-medal game and will make its sixth appearance in the Olympic final following a 1-0 win over Germany.

Sophia Smith broke a scoreless game in extra time by outmaneuvering defender Felicitas Rauch and German goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger. It was Smith's third goal of the tournament.

The Americans are undefeated in France under new coach Emma Hayes and are vying for their fifth Olympic gold medal. They will play Brazil for the gold.

They U.S. Women's National Team missed out on the finals at the last two Olympic tournaments. They were eliminated in the quarterfinals in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro and relegated to the bronze-medal match at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

US women's volleyball team advances

The reigning Olympic champion U.S. women's volleyball team posted a straight-set victory against Poland to advance to the semifinals in Paris.

The Americans next play powerhouse Brazil on Thursday.

The Americans made a lineup change after the team's five-set defeat to China on July 29 to open group stage play, moving veterans Jordan Larson and Kelsey Robinson Cook to reserve roles and bringing in Avery Skinner and Kathryn Plummer. The Americans bounced back to beat Serbia two days later.

Teen wins skateboarding gold

A 14-year-old won the women's park skateboarding and knew she had a podium locked up as soon as she nailed her final run.

Arisa Trew of Australia scored a 93.18 on her final but still had an excruciating wait to see which step on the podium she'd stand on. Only when a 92.63 popped up for Japan's Cocona Hiraki to end the competition did Trew knew she was taking home gold.

At 14 years and 88 days old, Trew became the youngest Australian to win a medal. The previous youngest was Sandra Morgan, who was 14 years and 184 days old when she won gold in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay in 1956.

Wrestler goes out on top

Mijain Lopez concluded his career at the top, retiring after winning the 130-kilogram final for his fifth consecutive gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling.

The 41-year-old Cuban defeated Yasmani Acosta Fernandez of Chile 6-0. It made him the first Olympian to win gold in an event in five straight Games.

Following the match, he placed his shoes in the center of the mat, symbolizing his retirement.

At the last Olympics, Lopez became the first male wrestler to win four gold medals when he dominated in Tokyo, blowing through the field unscored upon in four matches.

Perfect 10 in diving

Quan Hongchan of China won her second gold medal in diving competition at these Games and did it by scoring a perfect 10 on the first of her five dives.

The dive was a forward 3 1/2 somersaults and hardly made a ripple as she set off wild cheers from Chinese fans as the seven judges all registered scores of 10.

The 17-year-old, a three-time world champion, said she has scored 10 three times before — including twice while winning gold in Tokyo.

The two Chinese women teamed up earlier to win the 10-meter synchronized.

Brazil upset in beach volleyball

Top-ranked David Ahman and Jonatan Hellvig of Sweden jump-set their way into the beach volleyball semifinals by beating Evandro and Arthur of Brazil at the Eiffel Tower Stadium.

Brazil's loss means the sport's spiritual home will not win a men's medal for the second straight Olympics. The Brazilian men took gold in Rio de Janeiro and Athens and three other medals in between.

Seine River water concerns cancel marathon swim test

A test run meant to allow athletes to familiarize themselves with the marathon swimming course in the Seine River was canceled over concerns about water quality in the Paris waterway.

World Aquatics made the decision to cancel the exercise at an early morning meeting. Fluctuating bacteria levels in the long-polluted waterway have been a constant concern throughout the Games with the swimming portion of the triathlon and the marathon swimming events both planned in the river.

Another marathon swimming test event is scheduled for Wednesday, and organizers will decide early that morning whether it will go forward. The women's marathon swim competition is set for Thursday, while the men are scheduled to race Friday.

The triathlon mixed relay event was held in the river this week. World Triathlon released data showing that when the triathletes swam, the levels of fecal bacteria E. coli and enterococci were within acceptable levels for the length of the triathlon relay course.

US rolls into semifinals of Paris Olympic basketball tournament, eases past Brazil, 122-87

PARIS (AP)—All the favored teams in the first three men's basketball quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics had problems. Canada lost to France. Serbia erased a 24-point deficit to beat Australia. Germany had to shake off a double-digit deficit before beating Greece.

So, going into the fourth and final game of the night, the U.S. knew what it had to do.

"We wanted to come out and make sure we were the aggressor," U.S. coach Steve Kerr.

They made it look easy, too. Devin Booker led a balanced front with 18 points and the Americans had little trouble with Brazil in the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, winning 122-87 on Tuesday.

The U.S. (4-0) moves on to face Serbia (3-1) in Thursday's semifinals, while Germany (4-0) takes on France (3-1) in the other semifinal. Winners of those games will play Saturday night for the gold medal; Thursday's losers will play Saturday morning for the bronze medal.

"Everybody expects us to win," U.S. forward Jayson Tatum said. "But you don't take things for granted, right? Canada lost earlier. It's a different game. It's not like playoffs, where it's a series. We've got one game and a lot of (stuff) can happen in one game, especially over here."

If there was one issue, it was this: LeBron James left in the third quarter after catching an elbow around his left eye, struck by Brazil's Georginho de Paula while going for a rebound. James went down, eventually pressed a towel over the eye and left for the locker room area later in the third.

Kerr said James needed four stitches.

"I'm all right," James said. "Got hit with an inadvertent elbow around the eye."

Anthony Edwards scored 17 points, while Joel Embiid—booed again in France, of course—had 14 points and seven rebounds in 12 first-half minutes for the Americans. Anthony Davis finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for the U.S. James had 12 points and nine assists.

Kevin Durant scored 11 points and passed Lisa Leslie as the U.S. Olympic career scoring leader, men's or women's. Leslie had 488 points in her four Olympic appearances, all of which ended with gold medals. Durant is trying to go 4 for 4 on the gold front as well; he's two wins away from getting that done.

"He's incredible. He was born to play ball and he's simply incredible," James said. "I'm happy for him. Congratulations to him. I'm super proud of him. And he's got more to go."

There was a moment where Brazil might have thought it had a chance. It trailed the U.S. by only eight midway through the second quarter. A big deficit had turned into something rather manageable.

The moment was short-lived.

A 21-2 run over the final 3:56 of the half turned things into their predictable blowout state. It eliminated whatever doubt there might have been—let's be honest, there wasn't much, if any—and the U.S. turned that eight-point lead into a 63-36 runaway going into the final 20 minutes.

Bruno Caboclo was the star for Brazil, leading all scorers with 30 points.

Playing in Paris for the first time during these Games, the crowd was smaller—the arena used for the three games in the group stage is nearly twice as big as the one being used for the knockout stage—but given the stakes, the turnout certainly seemed more star-studded.

Retired U.S. Olympic basketball star Carmelo Anthony and his son, Kiyan, were there, seated next to Pau Gasol in VIP spots near the court. U.S. women's star A'ja Wilson had a spot next to Snoop Dogg, who has become the unofficial ambassador of all things Team USA at these Olympics.

They came for a show. They got one. James led the end-of-half surge, and that was basically the game.

"Bron just out there throwing dimes," UConn women's star Paige Bueckers offered on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, and she wasn't wrong. He was 4 for 4 in the half from the floor, 2 for 2 from the line, a tidy 10 points and eight assists.

James walked back to the bench with about three minutes left in the game, after being tended to following that shot to the face.

And the crowd in Paris roared.

Maybe it was because James was fine. It might have been because at the same moment, French Olympic swimming star Leon Marchand—a winner of four gold medals at these Paris Games—was being shown on the scoreboard as well.

Either way, they had plenty to cheer.

"These are the medal games now," Booker said. "Have to take it to another level."

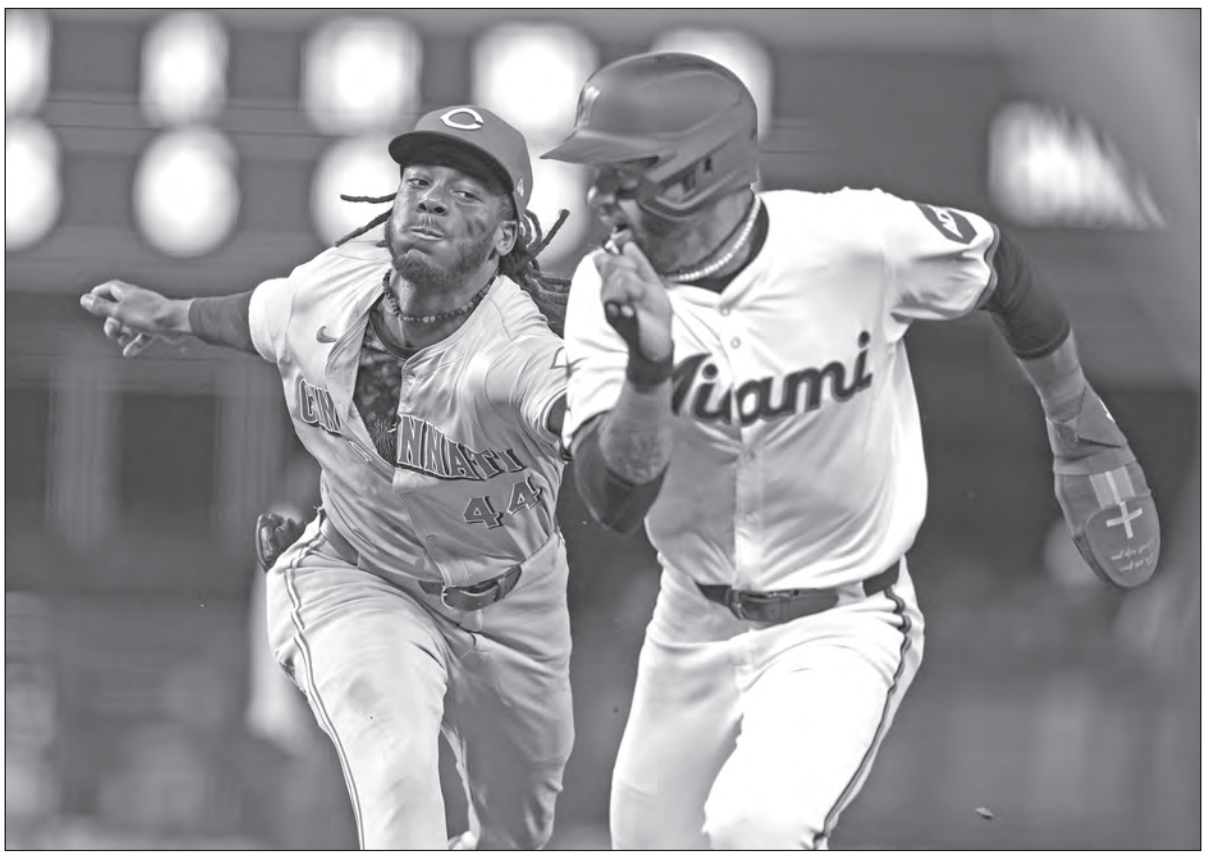
De La Cruz leads the Reds over the Marlins, 8-2

MIAMI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz again battered the Marlins while at bat and on the bases, going 4 for 5 with two doubles, as the Cincinnati Reds routed Miami 8-2 on Tuesday night.

A night after hitting two homers and two doubles, De La Cruz singled in the first, doubled and scored in the third and hit a bases-loaded double in the fourth that scored two. He then scored after stealing his major league-leading 58th base of the season, snagging third without a throw while Marlins starter Max Meyer (2-2) was in his stretch.

Going on the pitch after singling in the eighth, his speed distracted shortstop Xaver Edwards into a throwing error on Spencer Steer's grounder, taking third without breaking stride. He was stranded.

The Reds also got a strong outing from starter Nick Lodolo (9-4), who gave up two runs on two hits in six innings. He struck out seven.



AP

Cincinnati Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz (44) runs down and tags out Miami Marlins' Derek Hill, after Hill was caught attempting to steal second base during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, in Miami.

CARDINALS 4, RAYS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Victor Scott II and Tommy Pham each hit two-run homers, Sammy Gray pitched seven innings and St. Louis beat the Tampa Bay in the opener of a three-game series.

Scott, who was recalled from Triple-A Memphis on Sunday, hit his first big league homer in the four-run second inning. Pham added a double in a 2-for-4 night.

Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer in the first inning for the Rays, who were visiting St. Louis for the first time since Aug. 27, 2017.

The Cardinals had lost four of their previous five games and eight of 12.

BREWERS 10, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Willy Adames hit a pair of two-run homers and Milwaukee routed the Atlanta, handing them their third straight loss.

Colin Rea (10-3) dominated the Braves for seven innings, striking out a season-high nine batters while allowing five hits and one walk. Rea has not given up a run in his last three road starts, spanning 19 innings. The Brewers improved to 14-5 in Rea's 19 starts this season.

Adames was 4 for 5 with four RBIs, giving him 75 on the season. William Contreras was 3 for 4 with four RBIs and two runs scored. Joey Ortiz, Rhys Hoskins, Jackson Chourio and Brice Turang had two hits apiece as the Brewers finished with 16.

Bryce Elder (2-5) gave up seven runs on eight hits in just 3 2/3 innings. He struck out six and walked tw

ASTROS 4, RANGERS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Houston pitcher Framber Valdez lost a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning when Texas slugger Corey Seager hit a two-run homer in the Astros' victory over the Rangers..

Valdez was on the verge of his second no-hitter in just more than a year when Seager sent the first pitch he saw in the ninth, an 85 mph slider, into the stands in right field. It was Seager's fifth homer in five games.

The 30-year-old left-hander cruised through eight innings but finally began to stumble in the ninth against his Texas rival and the defending World Series champions.

Robbie Grossman drew a leadoff walk on Valdez's 99th pitch, but the 100th was the second Texas double play of the game on Ezequiel Duran's bouncer to Alex Bregman at third.

BLUE JAYS 5, ORIOLES 2

TORONTO (AP)—Alejandro Kirk hit a three-run home run, Chris Bassitt struck out a season-high nine in seven innings to snap a three-start losing streak and Toronto beat the Baltimore.

Addison Barger hit a two-run double in Toronto's five-run sixth inning as the Blue Jays handed Baltimore its 14th loss in its last 24 games.

Orioles right-hander Grayson Rodriguez was scratched minutes before the first pitch because of pain in his upper back and shoulder.

Right-hander Albert Suárez started in place of Rodriguez and struck out six over five scoreless innings.

CUBS 7, TWINS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Shota Imanaga gave up two hits through seven innings, Isaac Paredes hit a three-run drive for his first homer with the Cubs, and Chicago beat Minnesota.

Imanaga retired the first 10 hitters he faced before issuing his only walk of the game, then gave up a two-run homer to Royce Lewis, but the Cubs went on to end Minnesota's five-game winning streak. The 30-year-old left-hander struck out 10—nine swinging—to tie his career high.

Paredes, acquired from Tampa Bay in a July 28 trade, finished with two hits and four RBIs. Dansby Swanson had three hits, including a run-scoring triple in the sixth, to help the Cubs win for the fifth time in seven games.

NATIONALS 11, GIANTS 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—James Wood homered, tripled and scored four runs, and Washington erased a quick four-run deficit to beat San Francisco.

Wood also walked twice and stole two bases for the Nationals, who have won three of four after losing five straight.

CJ Abrams hit a three-run homer and Keibert Ruiz had three hits including a solo shot for Washington, which finished with 15 hits. Alex Call added a pair of RBI doubles and a walk.

MacKenzie Gore (7-9) continued his recent struggles but navigated through five innings for his first win since June 14, allowing five runs on eight hits. He walked two and struck out six. Over his last nine starts, Gore is 1-4 with a 7.24 ERA.

Three Washington relievers combined to pitch four scoreless innings of one-hit ball to close it out.

RED SOX 6, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Dominic Smith scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the sixth inning on a call that was overturned on a challenge, and Boston beat Kansas City.

Smith doubled to open the sixth and moved to third on a single to center field by Eric Sogard. After David Hamilton struck out looking, Smith charged home on a pitch by KC's Seth Lugo that bounced in front of the plate and got away from catcher Salvador Perez. Perez chased the ball to the backstop, wheeled and threw to Lugo, who appeared to tag Smith for an apparent out.

The Red Sox challenged the call, which was overturned on review.

Later in the inning, with the bases loaded and two out Yoshida singled through the right side, driving in two more runs.

The Red Sox, who have won the first two games of the three-game set, trail the Royals by a half-game for the third American League wild-card spot.

ROCKIES 6, METS 3

DENVER (AP)—Jake Cave hit a home run, Elias Díaz had two hits and two RBIs, and Colorado beat the New York Mets.

Cave hit a two-out, two-run homer off Luis Severino (7-5) to cap a three-run fourth inning and Díaz singled in an insurance run in the eighth.

Harrison Bader had a two-run single and Brandon Nimmo had two hits and an RBI for the Mets, who have lost four of six and were playing their third game in three days at three different sites. The Mets lost at the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday before winning in St. Louis on Monday in the makeup of a May 8 rainout.

The game was delayed nine minutes by a heavy rain in the fifth inning and the teams played through a brief shower in the sixth.

PADRES 6, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Donovan Solano had four hits and four RBIs, and San Diego used six pitchers to shut out Pittsburgh in a game delayed nearly three hours due to rain.

Solano had four singles, including a pair for two runs each. It was his first four-hit game since Sept. 26, 2023.

Adrián Morejón struck out two in one inning of relief after replacing Bryan Hoeing (2-2) with two outs in the fifth. Hoeing gave up one hit and one walk with three strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings and earned the win.

Tanner Scott came in for Jason Adam, who allowed two hits and a walk in one inning, with two outs in the seventh and struck out Jared Triolo—ending a bases-loaded threat. Scott allowed one hit in 1 1/3 innings before Jeremiah Estrada struck out the side in the ninth.

Padres starter Dylan Cease gave up a two-out double to Rowdy Tellez in his only inning before a two-hour, 40-minute delay due to rain.

San Diego has won 12 of 14 games to move into the first NL wild-card spot, a half-game ahead of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

WHITE SOX 5, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run homer and the Chicago White Sox snapped their American League record-tying losing streak at 21 games on Tuesday night, beating Oakland.

Jonathan Cannon gave up one run over six innings to end his personal drought while helping the White Sox to their first victory since early July.

Chicago on Monday matched the longest losing streak since the 1988 Baltimore Orioles lost 21 in a row, falling to the Athletics 5-1. The NL record since 1900 is held by the 1961 Philadelphia Phillies, who lost 23 straight.

TIGERS 4, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Parker Meadows homered and drove in two runs, Keider Montero pitched six strong innings and Detroit beat the Seattle.

Montero (2-5), making the ninth start of his career, allowed just four hits, including Luke Raley's solo homer in the fifth.

Meadows put the Tigers on the board first with an RBI single off Mariners starter Luis Castillo in the fourth, and Detroit plated two more runs in the fifth on RBI singles by Colt Keith and Wenceel Pérez to make it a three-run game.

Meadows made it 4-1 with a 415-foot blast off Trent Thornton in the eighth.

Raley pulled Seattle within two runs with his homer in the fifth inning, and Seattle scored again when Jorge Polanco hit a flyball that fell between Pérez and Meadows in right-center field for an RBI single in the ninth.

PHILLIES 6, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cristopher Sánchez pitched six strong innings, Edmundo Sosa and Kyle Schwarber homered back-to-back in the ninth and Philadelphia beat the Los Angeles in a matchup of the National League's top two teams.

Sánchez (8-7) allowed one run and five hits, struck out two and walked one to help end the Dodgers' three-game winning streak.

Schwarber's two-out RBI single knocked Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw (0-2) out of the game in the fifth and gave the Phillies a 1-0 lead. After Austin Hays' double, Kershaw had an 0-2 count on Brandon Marsh before hitting him to set up Schwarber.

Making his third start of the season, Kershaw gave up one run and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out five against no walks.

Dodgers reliever Brusdar Graterol sustained a strained right hamstring that forced him out in the sixth, a day after he came off the 60-day injured list. The Phillies battered his replacement, Brent Honeywell.

TSLF is Presidential Sponsor of HANMI golf tourney

The 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament has gained a Presidential Suite Sponsor in Tan Siu Lin Foundation with a $2,000 cash donation made last Wednesday, July 31.

Registration is now open for the tournament, to be held on Aug. 24, 2024, at Coral Ocean Resort Saipan. Registration forms are available at COR clubhouse, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan front desk, and at www.saipanhotels.org.

"TSL Foundation is a consistent support in our community of many events benefitting various charitable activities," said tournament chair Das Krishnan. "We truly appreciate their generous support for the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament."

HANMI

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, third right, turns over a $2,000 donation to tournament chair Das Krishnan, fourth right, for the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on July 31, 2024, at the JP Center in Garapan. Pictured, from left, are tournament committee member William Retardo, TSL Foundation administrative assistant Rina Robles, Tan Holdings VP Community Relations Catherine Attao, and tournament committee members Julie Litulumar, Victoria Lee, and Catherine Perry.

The early bird tournament fee is $110 for CNMI residents and includes an awards banquet at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Ataari Dinner Show. Optional play is $30. The fee increases to $130 after the early bird deadline on Aug. 10, 2024. Registration fee for non-CNMI residents is $180 (also includes green fee and awards banquet).

Optional play will include Accurate Drive (hole No. 16), Circle (hole No. 6), Longest Drive (hole No. 18), and four chances for Nearest to the Pin (holes No. 3, 7, 12, and 14). Showtime is 6am, and the tournament will start at 7am. The tournament will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. The tournament follows a blackjack double Peoria format.

For more information, contact tournament chair Das Krishnan at (670) 483-6405 or das.krishnan@ihg.com. ***(PR)***

Knicks make Brunson team captain, first since 2018-19 season

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks have chosen Jalen Brunson as their captain, the team's first in six years.

Brunson quickly became one of the team's leaders after arriving in 2022 and on Tuesday was selected as the 36th captain in franchise history. The Knicks hadn't had one since Lance Thomas in the 2018-19 season.

Knicks President Leon Rose called Brunson a "natural born leader," adding in a statement that he was confident the All-Star guard would "continue to represent our organization, fans, city and his teammates with the same heart, grit and class that he has displayed each and every day since he came to New York."

Brunson has led to the Knicks to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs in both his seasons after coming from Dallas. He averaged 28.7 points last season, earning his first All-Star nod and finishing fifth in voting for the NBA MVP award.

Brunson becomes the fourth second-round pick to be Knicks captain. That list is headlined by Willis Reed, the Hall of Fame center who was nicknamed "The Captain" for his leadership.

PARE

From page 16

heaters that didn't allow AB Team any more runs.

In the bottom of the third, Pare Pack added five more runs off another three-run shot by Kumoi, and a dinger each by Se and Jon Tydingco, for a 15-4 final.

In other results, Bat Dat Ass Up slipped past the Blue Jays, 12-11; Brotherhood united and said adios to Wazzup, 19-18; defending champs Aimeliik Bat Boys clobbered We Balls, 23-7; Saipal pummeled Team Luchan, 23-3; Team Yayaya won in a slugfest against Taotao Mona, 32-30; and The Kliq extinguished the flame of Red Torch, 43-15; and the Homies brought down Just4Fun, 32-26.

In the standings, only Brotherhood, Homies, and Team Yayaya are undefeated with two wins each. Pare Pack, Blue Jays, Saipal, Taotao Mona, We Balls, Just4Fun, Aimeliik Bat Boys, Wazzup, The Kliq, Red Torch, AB Team, and Bat Dat Ass Up are at 1-1 each. Only Team Luchan have yet to win at two losses.

Catch the action at the Dandan Softball Field every Sunday from 9am to 4pm. The regular season games will run until November, with playoffs to be determined after.

JASON

From page 16

Australia, and France on Sunday, Aug. 18.

Ball is competing against women paddlers from Australia, Wallis & Futuna, the USA Outrigger Racing Canoe Association, France, Tahiti, and Brazil on Monday, Aug. 19.

If they both win their heats, they will advance to the semis and then to the finals.

For 59-year-old multi-sport athlete Tarkong, he said, "It is a great honor to represent NMI… Unlike the younger athletes who I train and compete with. My time is limited. I enjoy the ocean. I call it H20 therapy. I represent not only our culture, people, family, and community—but also my classmates—Mount Carmel class of 1984. Woohoo!"

Tarkong said of Ball, "she is our top female V1 paddler in the NMI. She never lost a race here on Saipan and got a silver in the [23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race] last year in Guam. She is the stroker for MOC women and they swept the medals in Guam last year."

Ball, who's been paddling since 2022, said that it would be a privilege to be in the same water as the best of the best paddlers in the world. "I'll just try to do my best, have fun, collect the experience, and learn from others," she said.

She said that each country she will go up against will be tough, so she will just take it "one step at a time. My goal is to be in repechage and see where it goes from there."

The weightlifter-turned-paddler said she's been working hard and far to build her confidence up with paddling. "I work hard to train with Tarkong in the water as well as with GetfitCNMI to build my strength—sometimes remotely, and joining the other clubs wherever I'm traveling for work.

"I am thankful for Palau Canoe Club and Singapore Paddling Club for allowing me to join them to practice while I was away from Saipan. I am very competitive personally, my mindset is always leading me [to] try my best to win," said Ball.

About this event, she said she's been looking forward to it since she started with the sport. "We missed the opportunity last year in the World Sprints in Samoa because of the difficulties for flights, costs, and etc. This year we tried our best to afford to join the opportunities in Hilo, Hawaii."

She then said, MOC and the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation are very supportive. "Thank you for the opportunity. I honestly look forward to the opening ceremony and walking with other athletes representing their country. Jason Tarkong, Ashley Pangelinan (team manager), and I will be so proud to hold the NMI flag." She added, "I am at an age to have a great time and enjoy every moment and opportunity."

Every year the International Va'a Federation has openings for the world sprints. This includes the 500m sprint, the 1,500m sprints, and the long-distance sprints. Entries include national teams and clubs.

PALACIOS

From page 16

completing the podium finish in the Intermediate Class is former MRA president Charles Cepeda with 42 points.

"The weather was good. It was a little slippery and muddy but it was a fun day of racing. The course was good, the track looked perfect in the morning then it just started raining but it was a fun day of racing overall. After I managed to go around Aric I was battling with my big brother Shane Alvarez," said Palacios.

Alvarez, who topped the Expert Class, raced with Palacios, Cruz, and other division racers as MRA decided to have them race lumpsum for the first August race.

Aboard his father's Kawasaki 2023 250f, Palacios said he was just lucky to hold off Cruz in the first heat.

"Aric had a good start in the first heat and got the hole shot. He managed to hold us off and had a fast pace going into the first lap, but I just had to dig deep and fortunately got around the mud while trying to catch up to Aric," said Palacios.

He then dedicated his win to his Trench Tech Racing Team, his family, and MRA.

In the Mini II Class, T.J. Ferrer reasserted his dominance by winning both heats for a perfect 50 points. Calix Cruz was second with 44 points.

JANIY MOHAMMED

Vicente "Beng" Palacios finished first in Heat 1 before coming in second to runaway season winner Aric Cruz in the second heat for 47 points.

In the aforementioned Expert Class, Alvarez again beat all comers with 50 points. He was followed by Corry Pangelinan and MRA president Ellery Cruz with identical 40 points, but the former took second because he won the last race.

The Veterans Class was again won by Alvarez patriarch Cuki, who rode to twin 25s for another 50 points. Champi Villacanes and Charles Cepeda completed the Top 3 with 44 and 40 points, respectively.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	46	.593	–
Baltimore	67	47	.588	½
Boston	61	51	.545	5½
Tampa Bay	57	55	.509	9½
Toronto	52	61	.460	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	67	45	.598	–
Minnesota	63	49	.563	4
Kansas City	63	52	.548	5½
Detroit	54	60	.474	14
Chicago	28	88	.241	41
West Division				
Seattle	59	55	.518	–
Houston	58	55	.513	½
Texas	54	60	.474	5
Los Angeles	49	63	.438	9
Oakland	47	68	.409	12½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	67	46	.593	–
Atlanta	60	52	.536	6½
New York	59	54	.522	8
Washington	52	62	.456	15½
Miami	42	72	.368	25½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	63	49	.563	–
St. Louis	58	56	.509	6
Pittsburgh	56	56	.500	7
Cincinnati	55	58	.487	8½
Chicago	56	60	.483	9
West Division				
Los Angeles	66	48	.579	–
San Diego	62	52	.544	4
Arizona	61	52	.540	4½
San Francisco	57	58	.496	9½
Colorado	42	72	.368	24

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thomas leads Americans to 2 golds—5 overall—at track and field

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TSLF is Presidential Sponsor of HANMI golf tourney

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Pare Pack brings down AB Team, 15-4

LEIGH GASES

Pare Pack shortstop Kier Agda reaches up for a popup during their game against Aimeliik Bat Boys last Sunday in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

LEIGH GASES

Pare Pack's Travis Malwelbug hustles around third base to home during their opening game against Just4Fun last July 28 in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Pare Pack bounced back from their debut loss with a win over AB Team, 15-4, last Sunday in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Se Lizama, pitcher of Pare Pack, tamed AB Team's offense from the get-go as he didn't allow any runs in the first and second inning. He allowed about three hits but went on to elicit soft contact and strikeouts to end the innings quickly.

His offense, on the other hand, helped him out with five opening runs in the first inning. Ze Lizama hit a three-run homer, followed by a solo shot by Jeremy Lizama and another run scored by Kier Agda.

Pare Pack had a 5-0 lead in the second, and added more runs as the homers kept coming. Verlance Secharmidal hit a three-run round-tripper, followed by a two-RBI homer by the pitcher, Se, for a 10-0 lead.

AB Team finally reached home plate in the third as a grand slam was made by Greg Sablan to get them on the board, 4-10. However, that was all AB Team could do as in the fourth and fifth inning, Se Lizama continued to throw

See PARE on Page 15

JANIY MOHAMMED

Vicente "Beng" Palacios in action in the Intermediate Class of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Palacios gets 1st Intermediate Class win of 2024

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Vicente "Beng" Palacios captured his first checkered flag in the Intermediate Class in the penultimate race of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

The 15-year-old incoming sophomore at Marianas High School finished first in Heat 1 before coming in second to runaway season winner Aric Cruz in the second heat for 47 points.

Cruz, who has won all Marianas Racing Association races in the division before last Sunday, came in second with 45 points, while

See PALACIOS on Page 15

Support Jason and Pipit's bid in Hawaii for va'a champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Club veteran athletes Jason Tarkong and Pipit Ball are set to compete in the IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 in Hilo, Hawaii that will be held from Aug. 13 to 24.

The NMI paddlers are heading to Hawaii next Tuesday, Aug. 13, to compete in the V1 men 500m and V1 500m women's sprints and are calling upon the community for their help and support for their expenses.

They have a gofundme account at https://gofund.me/da559385.

According to Tarkong, they will be in Hilo for two weeks, and said that the cost is an average of $5,000 per athlete. This includes meals, lodging, airfare, transport, and etc. He said to send a team of six men, six women, plus two alternates, a coach, and a manager is too costly, so it will just be him and Ball representing MOC.

Both Tarkong and Ball will be competing in Hawaii for the first time and submitted their application to compete before the deadline in March.

Tarkong is paddling against the best of the best from Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Wallis & Futuna,

See JASON on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club's Pipit Ball poses with her medals next to her canoe at the Kilili Beach in Susupe. She is suiting up for the IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 in Hilo, Hawaii that will be held from Aug. 13 to 24.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club's Jason Tarkong poses with his medals next to his canoe at the Kilili Beach in Susupe. She is suiting up for the IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 in Hilo, Hawaii that will be held from Aug. 13 to 24.